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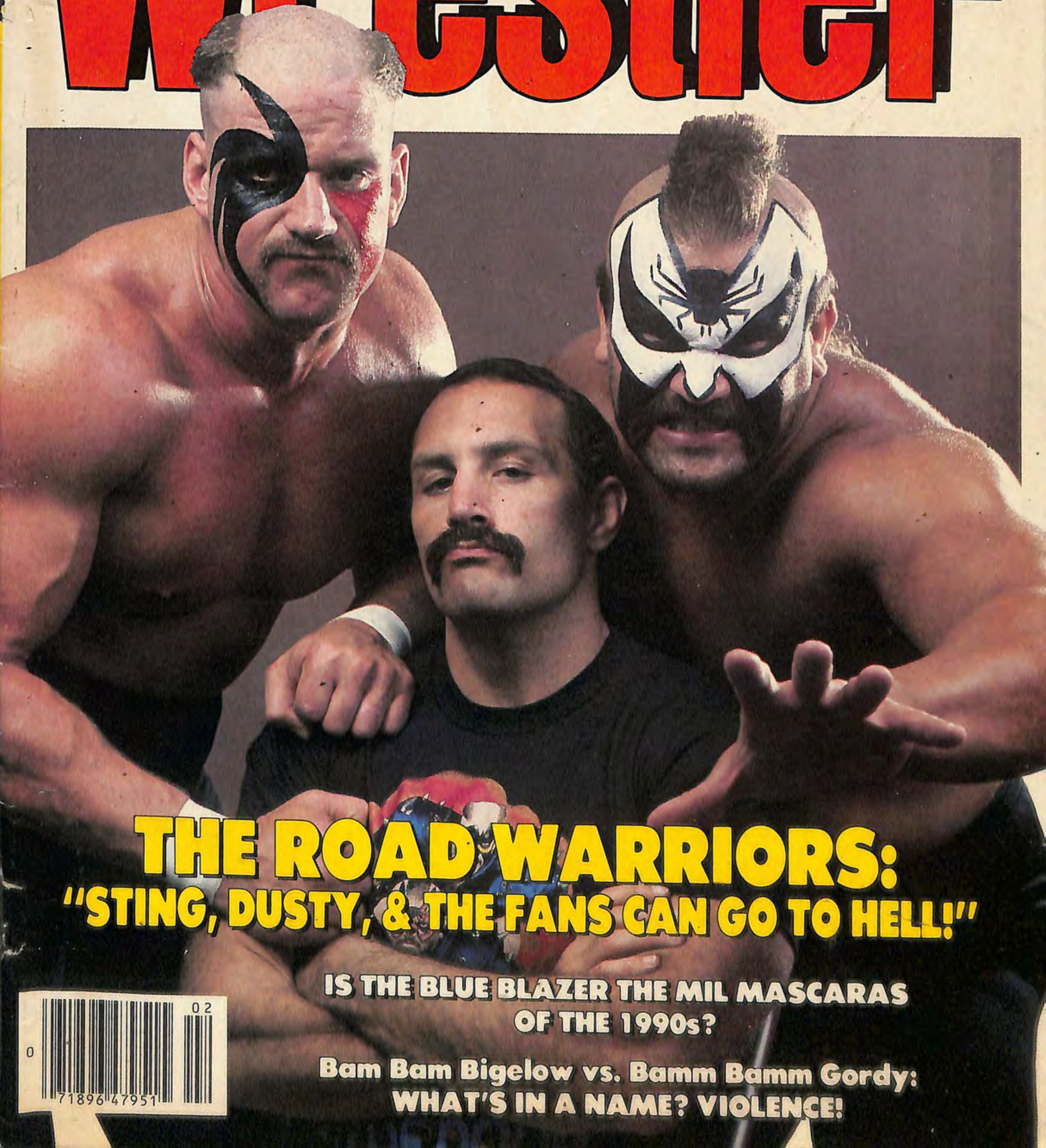

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YOUR LETTERS

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ELIZABETH: PRO . . .

In your December 1988 issue, you gave a "Thumbs Down" to Elizabeth. Thumbs *down?* I think it should be just the opposite! You complained because Elizabeth stripped? What show were you watching? Elizabeth revealed no more of her shapely body than any beauty contest competitor. And what about Ric Rude? He undresses constantly, and no one says anything! What about Madusa Miceli? Elizabeth's outfit was classier than any sleazy thing Miceli wears!

I'm sorry if your pure and innocent image of Elizabeth was ruined, but she's an adult; personally I like it. She's more courageous and innovative than before, while remaining as beautiful as ever! Thumbs *up* for Elizabeth for getting more involved in "Macho Madness"!

GERALD KLEIN
Portland, OR

. . . AND CON

I have to wholeheartedly agree with your "Thumbs Down" to Elizabeth in your December 1988 issue. While some may say that Elizabeth's strategy for victory was brilliant, I am forced to disagree.

Megapowers vs. Megabucks was meant to be the ultimate wrestling showdown. If there's any word in that sentence that could be underlined it's "wrestling." This was a highly touted match for which fans waited patiently for months. I think to have it end on such a note of burlesque and pornography greatly cheapens the match's importance.

In Gerald Klein's opinion, Elizabeth is as much a lady as she ever was. But Kate Miller was disappointed with the manager's actions at SummerSlam 88.

Don't get me wrong, I think Elizabeth is an uncommonly beautiful and intelligent woman. However, I believe that the role of a manager is to provide strategy, direct training routines, and handle the financial responsibilities of his or her wrestler. As far as I'm concerned, strategy should be discussed in the dressing room and, once it's agreed upon, that's where the manager's role ends. I hate seeing managers get involved in the actual match.

Your "Thumbs Down" to Elizabeth showed that your magazine (unlike Jesse Ventura, Ted DiBiase, and Bobby Heenan) won't be swayed by a seductive set of legs. You're still the watchdog of wrestling.

KATE MILLER
Providence, RI

JUST THE FACTS, MA'AM

People put down the WWF a lot because of the flashiness, but as the Super Destroyer said many years ago, "You can paint your head purple and wear a feather, but it don't

matter if you ain't got the talent." That's what it's all about, and the WWF has the talent. The newest addition to the federation, The Blue Blazer, is a perfect example.

Judging him solely on his radiant ring attire, one would be forced to laugh politely and flip channels to *Legends Of World Class*. But, to paraphrase Super Destroyer, what goes on between the ropes is the only thing that counts.

Granted, Blue Blazer looks like a cross between Ric Flair and Sir Lancelot, but look at the way he wrestles! Have you ever seen anybody move like that? In a recent televised match against Barry Horowitz, the Blazer used the ring ropes like they were parallel bars! Show me anyone else who could do that!

He may *look* like some feathered gimmick, but this guy can *wrestle!*

MIKE KOZBIAL
Lethbridge, Alberta

EXPLAIN YOURSELF!

Why, in the December 1988 issue, do you have Ted DiBiase rated number five in the Top 10, while at the same time you rate Barry Windham number seven? Compare the two; Windham will invariably come out on top.

DiBiase tried to buy the WWF World title; Windham never needed to resort to that. Windham is one of the most talented wrestlers in the world! Even though I don't agree with Windham's new rulebreaking tactics, he's still great; DiBiase is a talentless pea-brain.

DiBiase might be a great wrestler if he would concentrate on the game and not on buying a title that great men like Bruno Sammartino, Pedro Morales, Bob Backlund, and Randy Savage have defended with honor.

Barry Windham is simply a better wrestler than Ted DiBiase, and your ratings should reflect that.

CHRIS TOMLIN
Captiva, FL

When *The Wrestler* rated U.S. champion Barry Windham below Ted DiBiase in the December 1988 issue, reader Chris Tomlin wrote to complain. He thinks Windham is superior to the "Million-Dollar Man."

THE PLACE TO BE

If the WWF is so bad, why are top stars from World Class, the NWA, and the AWA jumping on Vince McMahon's bandwagon? Since WrestleMania IV, no fewer than eight major stars have joined the WWF: Big Bossman, Dave Peterson, Terry Taylor, Curt Hennig, The Powers of Pain, and Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson.

Curt Hennig locks Jim Brunzell in an abdominal stretch. Hennig is one of many stars from other federations who have journeyed to the WWF and improved the quality of wrestling there, writes Kevin Redding.

Granted, some of their stunts get a little crazy, but at least when you go to a WWF event you know you're getting your money's worth.

KEVIN REDDING
Bethpage, NY

VIDEO VANDALS

I'm upset at the NWA for their continuous disregard of wrestling fans! On numerous occasions, they've scheduled a main event for the end of their telecasts. As a result, the show ends during the middle of the match and we never get to see who won!

Also, on a recent NWA show on WTBS, they made reference to the Sting-Dusty Rhodes-Road Warriors situation. They instructed fans to watch *World Championship Wrestling* later that evening to find out what happened. For nearly the entire show, they continued to tell the fans that some big information was coming. With five minutes left in the program, David Crockett said that they

(Continued on page 44)

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

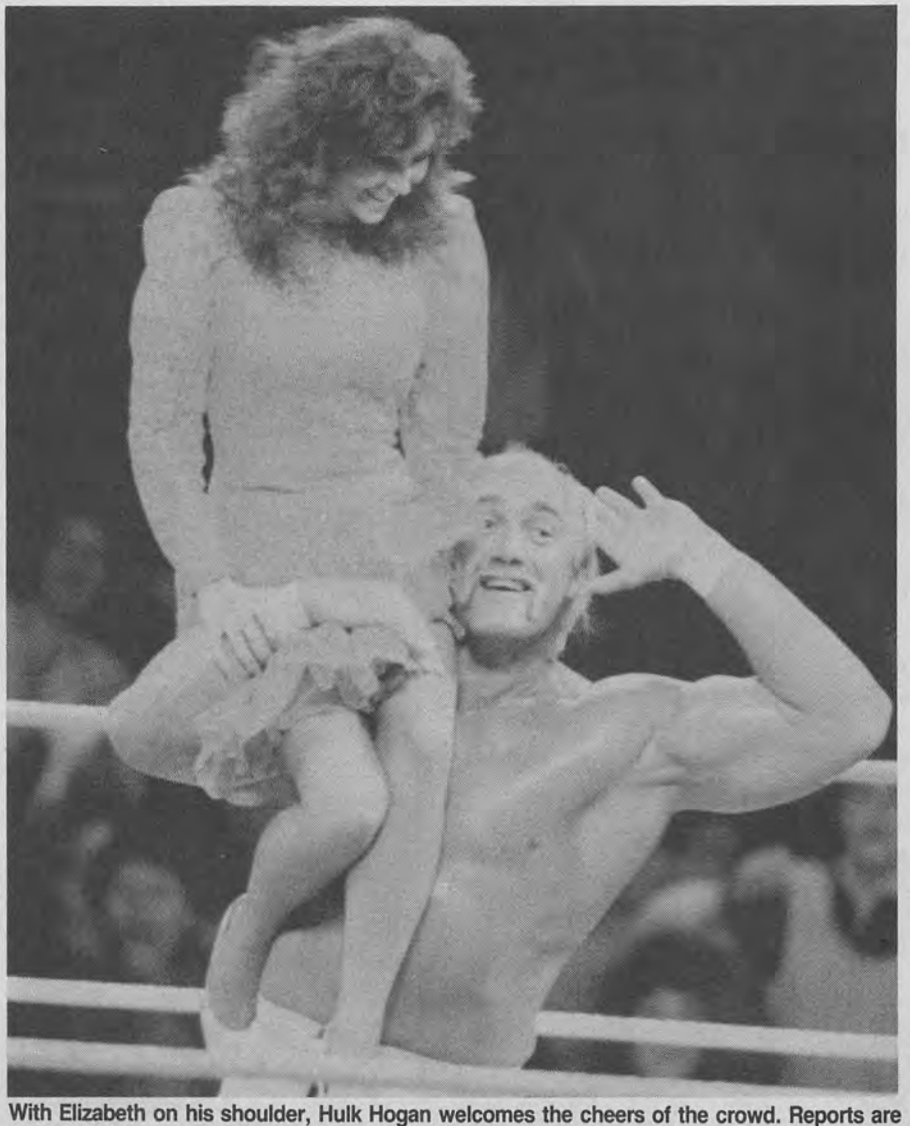
By BILL APTER

THE ALREADY TENUOUS relationship between WWF World champion **Randy Savage** and former champ **Hulk Hogan** has moved to even shakier ground as the result of events at the October 25 taping for *Saturday Night's Main Event* and *Wrestling Superstars* in Baltimore.

Hogan was led to the ring by Savage's beautiful manager **Elizabeth** prior to his match against **King Haku**. According to WWF sources, the "Macho Man"—unaware that Elizabeth planned to be in Hogan's corner for the match—became enraged when he found out. Fortunately, however, friends of both men were able to calm Savage before he confronted Hogan.

But it was evident later in the evening that Savage was angry with Elizabeth. When he came to the ring for his match against **Andre the Giant**, Savage had Elizabeth open the ropes for him. Savage had few words with Elizabeth before the match and wrestled with some of the anger that made him one of the most hated men in the sport only a year ago.

Savage, by the way, defeated Andre by disqualification when *(Continued on page 48)*



With Elizabeth on his shoulder, Hulk Hogan welcomes the cheers of the crowd. Reports are that WWF champ Randy Savage was angry when he discovered that his manager had accompanied "The Hulkster" to the ring without him being present.

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WIN LOSE OR DRAW

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

IT'S ONE HOUR TO deadline and I need a story—fast!

"Hello?"

"Hello, is this Paul Jones' office?"

"Yes, it is. May I ask who's calling, please?"

"This is Andy Rodriguez of *The Wrestler.*"

"The wrestler who?"

"No, it's a magazine, *The Wrestler* magazine. Is Paul Jones in?"

"Mr. Jones is not in at the moment. May I take a message?"

"Yes. Tell him I'd like to speak with him as soon as possible. I'm doing a story on The Powers of Pain."

"The *who?"*

"The Powers of Pain."

"Who, or what, are The Powers of Pain?"

"You know, Warlord and Barbarian."

"I've never heard of any Warlord or Barbarian."

"Ma'am, how long have you worked for Jones?"

"Three years."

"And you've never heard of The Powers of Pain?"

"No, I haven't."

"I don't understand how you . . . Oh, okay, now I get it. Tell me, do you know who Hulk Hogan is?"

"No."

"Kerry Von Erich?"

"Never heard of him."

"Jerry Lawler?"

"Jerry *who?"*

"You've been trained well, ma'am."

"Excuse me?"

"You take orders very nicely."

"What are you getting at?"

"Paul teaches you to remember what he wants to remember, and forget what he wants to forget. He practices a kind of selective amnesia."

"That is uncalled for, sir. Mr. Jones is a genius."

"An evil genius, if you ask me."

"I don't have to listen to this!"

"Then hang up."

"I should, but I'm not that rude."

"Listen, ma'am. I'm sorry I got

(Continued on page 52)

Although he managed Warlord and Barbarian to the NWA six-man title (along with Ivan Koloff), Paul Jones doesn't want to hear anything about them since they left for the WWF.

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BLINDSIDED

BY BOB SMITH

NOT SO LONG ago, he was the hottest young star in wrestling. Lately, though, he's become a forgotten man. Is Brad Armstrong, the 1982 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Rookie of the Year, already over the hill?

"*Me?*" asks the Georgia-bred Armstrong, who recently departed the NWA for the Continental area. "Yeah, I've heard all the whispers and rumors. That kind of talk surprises me. It's probably because I haven't won a title in a while. But, hey, I'm still as good as ever! My best years are still ahead of me."

It's easy to see why Armstrong remains optimistic. The son of the legendary Bob Armstrong, Brad is ranked by many experts as one of the top pure wrestlers in the sport. He's lightning-fast, exceptionally knowledgeable, and possesses the kind of physique that female fans go crazy over.

Armstrong leaps over Anderson

With all this going for him, it seems that Armstrong should be a main-event star regardless of where he appears. Brad agrees, but he insists on doing things *his* way.

"Wrestling is a really strange game," said Armstrong, laughing sarcastically. "People are resorting to some pretty outlandish tactics in order to be noticed these days. Well, I refuse to do it. Who needs a manager or a club? I'll get recognition on my *own* terms, or I can live without it."

It's not that Armstrong hasn't had his share of success during his career—in fact, he's been one of the more prolific tag team champions of the decade. He's won the Global tag team title (with Magnum T.A.), the Georgia tag team title twice (with Bob Armstrong and Tim Horner), and the UWF tag team title (also with Horner). In singles competition, he's a former Georgia National champion, defeating none other than Ted DiBiase to earn that distinction.

The problem is that none of those titles exist anymore, and many people have been wondering if Brad has disappeared along with those championships.

"I had every opportunity to succeed in the NWA," recalled Armstrong, who still competes in a strictly scientific style. "Believe it or not, James J. Dillon tried to recruit me several times for The Four Horsemen, and Kevin Sullivan even wanted me for his Varsity Club. I told them both to stick it."

Armstrong looks at the way many wrestlers have achieved prominence during the past couple of years as a quick-fix for temporary career doldrums.

"Take a look a Mike Rotundo," said Armstrong. "He was always great, but once he joined The Varsity Club he became a parody of his former self. He can barely win a match without relying on Sullivan. Talk about trashing your reputation! If that's what you have to do to win a title, I would just as soon forget all about it. I have ambition, too, but there's no reason for me to panic—especially now. Believe me, I'm gonna make up for what some people consider 'lost time' in a big way."

Armstrong is now spending his time in the CWF. His first goal in this fast-rising federation is not too surprising.

"Yeah, I want the CWF title," he laughed. "I agree that it's been too damn long since I won a championship. Don't expect anything different from me, though. A wrestler should *wrestle*. That's just the way I'm always gonna be, folks."

Many would insist that's exactly the way it *should* be. Shunning the spotlight, Brad continues to hone his skills, striving for quality both as a wrestler and as a person. Thankfully, he probably won't ever change—even if it means getting lost in the shuffle.

"I won't allow *that* to happen again," insists Armstrong. "I'm gonna be the hottest thing Continental has ever seen. *Then* let's see how many people say I'm all washed up!" □

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Inside Wrestling

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Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.

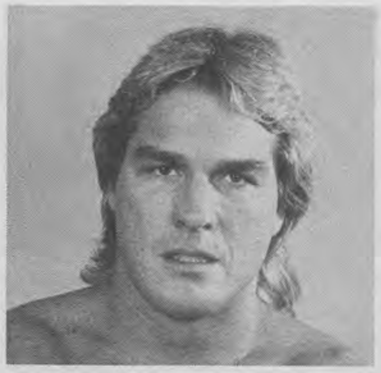
Thumbs Up to Eddie Gilbert. Perhaps we're about to be victimized by an ambush. So call us stupid for trusting Eddie Gilbert. But he seems to have the best intentions in his war on The Varsity Club for their breaking of Jimmy Garvin's leg. Since arriving in the NWA, Gilbert is a changed man. It's hard to believe that he was guilty of so many villainous acts in the CWA, CWF, and UWF, throughout his controversial career. Those acts overshadowed the fact that "Hot Stuff" is a fine all-around wrestler with the potential for greatness—if he keeps his mind to it!

Thumbs Up to Paul Ellering. The Road Warriors' attack on Sting and Lex Luger was uncalled for, as was their verbal attack on Dusty Rhodes. Let's not forget, however, that the Warriors have been going nowhere the last few years. At one time, The Legion of Doom was the best team in wrestling. But their inability to win a world title, combined with a perceived loss of killer instinct, threatened to make them just another team. Now Ellering seems to have the Warriors angry and on the right track. Thanks to Precious Paul, we may have witnessed the rebirth of this outstanding duo.

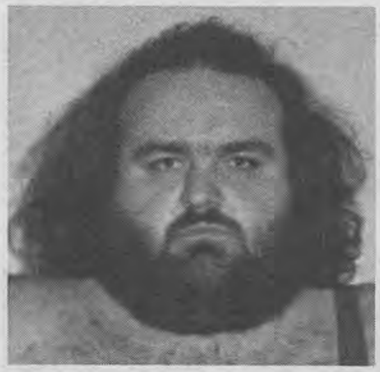
Thumbs Up to Randy Savage. The "Macho Man" deserves a big round of applause for the way he has defended the WWF World championship. Savage hasn't avoided any challengers while wrestling several times a week in different cities. This is a drastic change from Hulk Hogan, who often defended the belt once a week at best. These days, however, Ted DiBiase, Andre the Giant, King Haku, Big Bossman, and Bad News Brown—all challengers, and *losers* to Savage—have nothing to complain about. They're getting their shots; they just can't take advantage of them!

Thumbs Up to Tom Prichard. Belated congratulations to Tom for winning the Continental heavyweight title at the "Road to Birmingham" tournament! Prichard first defeated Kokina, then downed Jerry Stubbs, then overcame Stubbs' interference to beat archrival "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony in the final. Prichard, who recently embraced the cheers of the fans, now understands that fair play, hard work, and outstanding scientific wrestling *can* get the championship job done. It's good to see him win the title he's fought so long for. Defend it proudly, Tom. We know you will.

Thumbs Down



Thumbs Down to Terry Taylor. Bobby Heenan has transformed this outstanding talent into a scared little puppy, but Taylor—or "Little Red Rooster"—has nobody to blame but himself. How can Taylor stand by silently while Heenan belittles his ability? What happened to the Terry Taylor who stood up for himself and wrestled by the book? Taylor has gone nowhere since arriving in the WWF, and it appears he'll continue to go nowhere as long as he's being used by Heenan. It's time for a change, Terry. Get rid of Heenan! Then change your attitude.



Thumbs Down to Makhan Singh. Since Singh won the Stampede North American championship from Owen Hart last May, the value of this once-respected title has decreased dramatically. Singh's refusal to wrestle the top challengers is bad enough, but when he starts attacking non-wrestlers, we *must* draw the line. Singh was recently suspended for 45 days for attacking announcer Ed Whalen. This cowardly act was stopped by Steve DiSalvo, the man Singh should've been wrestling in the first place—if he had the guts. What a shame that the belt Owen wore so proudly is now in the hands of this no-talent fraud.

Thumbs Down to Rick Steiner. Loyalty is one thing, but Steiner continues to play the fool in his relationship with Kevin Sullivan and Mike Rotundo. The situation is similar to Terry Taylor's. How can Steiner stand by silently while Sullivan and Rotundo constantly downplay his abilities? And is he really as stupid as he's being made to seem? If Steiner thinks he can beat Rotundo, he should issue a challenge. The way things stand now, Steiner is making an idiot of himself and losing the respect of those who think of him as a fine wrestler. Be a man, Rick!

Thumbs Down to Robert Fuller. Stop the games, Robert! Deceiving and ambushing opponents is no way to earn respect and win titles. Recently, Fuller claimed he was unable to team with Jimmy Golden in a match against Jeff Jarrett and Brickhouse Brown. But when Fuller appeared at ringside on crutches, we knew something was up. And indeed, Fuller ran in the ring during the match and hit Jarrett with the crutches. We're at a loss to explain why Fuller feels the need to resort to such methods. These kinds of actions are a blight on our beloved sport. The fans' hatred of Fuller is well-directed. □

CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

Moncton, New Brunswick *(Correspondent—Greg Delaney):* The WWF made a smashing debut at The Moncton Coliseum as World heavyweight champion Randy Savage defended his title against his most hated archenemy, the "Million-Dollar Man," Ted DiBiase.

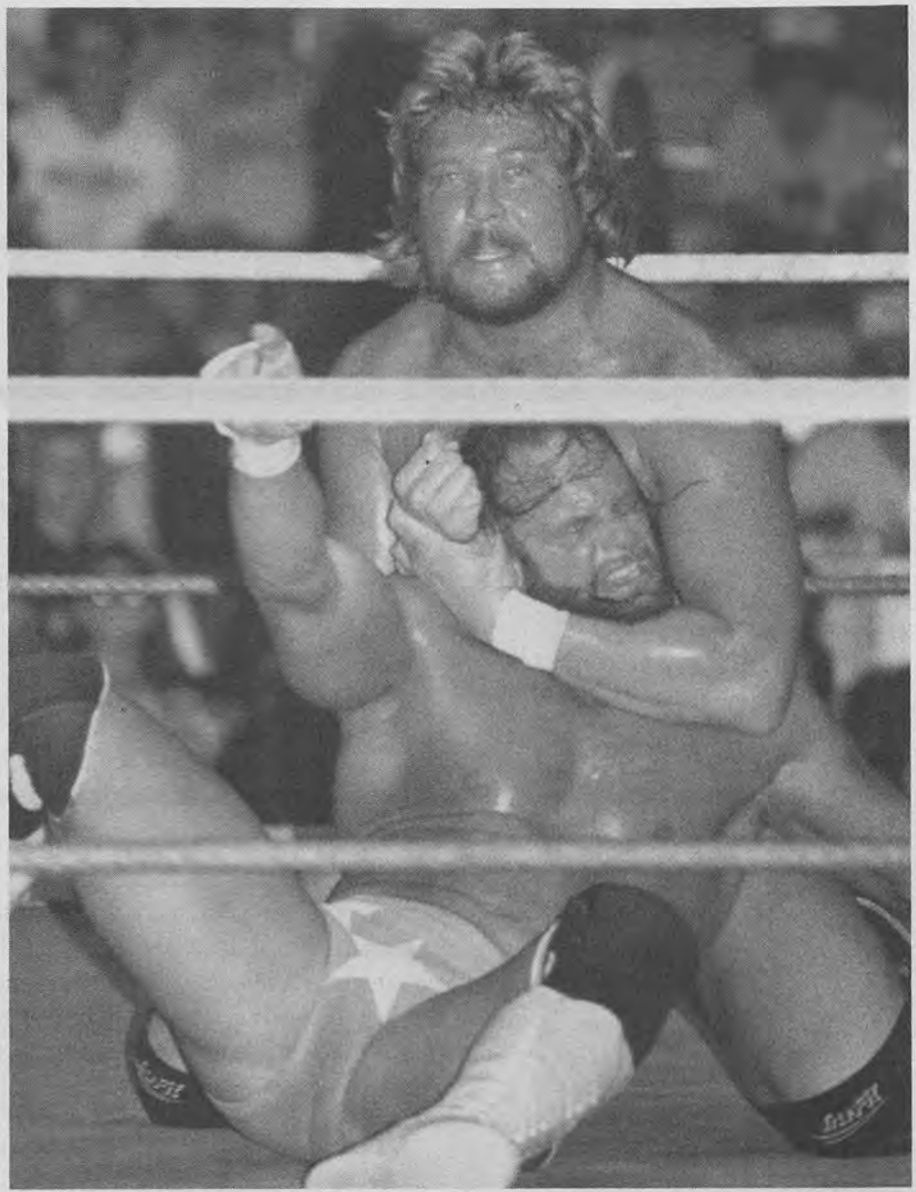
The "Macho Man" took an early offensive, and it seemed he wouldn't have a hard time defending the belt. He used bodyslams, clotheslines, and closed-fist punches to weaken DiBiase. Savage then chased after Virgil before DiBiase made his offensive drive.

DiBiase took control with fistdrops, elbowsmashes, and chinlocks, but—with the help of 8,900 cheering fans—Savage got to his feet and regained the momentum.

Savage then grabbed the "Million-Dollar Man's" head and choked him on the top rope. Quick as a cat, "Macho Man" climbed to the top turnbuckle and delivered an axhandle. He ran to the opposite side of the ring and was setting up for a flying elbowsmash when Virgil shook the ropes, causing Savage to fall to the mat.

Savage went after Virgil as Di-

(Continued on page 62)



Ted DiBiase puts a chinlock on WWF World champion Randy Savage. The Savage-DiBiase feud has been contested throughout North America. One match in New Brunswick saw Savage defeat the "Million-Dollar Man" by pinfall.

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YOU ASKED US

This is the monthly feature that answers ALL your most important questions about the mat sport, the stars, and the feuds. Send us your most perplexing queries and we'll have them answered for you by the world's finest grapplers and most insightful mat reporters. Address your questions to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, P.O. Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

Q: "My question is for Bam Bam Bigelow. You left the WWF because you couldn't get a World title shot. Why didn't you go after The Honky Tonk Man's Intercontinental title instead?"—Mark Berner, West Allis, WI

A: **"You're kidding, right?" Bigelow asked. "I don't want to sound egotistical, but when you're a wrestler who should rightfully be wrestling for the World title, it's kind of a comedown to go after the secondary beltholder. And that goes double when that beltholder is The Honky Tonk Man. He was such a bum that he ruined the worth of the championship. I wouldn't even bother with him."**

Bam Bam Bigelow says that he didn't go after the Intercontinental title because it was held by a "bum" like The Honky Tonk Man.

***

Q: "My question is for Ric Flair: How do you feel about Ted DiBiase's recent appearance on *Lifestyles Of The Rich And Famous*? I think the show should have featured you instead."—Marty Kibler, Greensboro, MD

A: **Flair answered: "I never watch that show, but one of my three secretaries showed me a videotape of it. I thought it was boring. The man has almost no facilities at his house! My estate sits on 1,000 acres of expensive real estate. I have my own 18-hole golf course. I have an entire stable of expensive Arabian horses. And I have one more thing DiBiase doesn't have: a gold belt that says 'World champion' on it! *Whoooooo!*"**

***

Q: "I would like to ask Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum who he thinks could beat The Ultimate Warrior for the WWF Intercontinental title. I don't think *anybody* could."—Ryan Perperas, Fairhaven, MA

A: **"Are you kidding?" Rosenbaum replied. "If you've been reading my columns these last few months, you know that there is one man I think is *uniquely* qualified to beat the Warrior. That man is The Honky Tonk Man. Who else has such lengthy Intercontinental title experience? Who else is a master of deception and cunning? Who else has a manager as attuned to his needs as Jimmy Hart? No one, that's who! The Honky Tonk Man is the greatest Intercontinental titlist in wrestling history, and he'll have his belt back in no time. And if Warrior manages to dodge Honky Tonk, any number of challengers could beat him. He's really nothing special."**

Honky Tonk sneaks up on The Ultimate Warrior. Dave Rosenbaum still considers Honky Tonk the number-one contender to Ultimate's I-C title.

***

Q: "I have a question for The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs. Why did you go back to Memphis? You could have gone to the AWA and won the World belts from Bad Company."—Angel Surita, Jersey City, NJ

A: **Tommy Lane responded: "First of all, we've been to Memphis so many times that it's like home to us. And winning the CWA tag team title was child's play. So why not take the belt when you can get it?" Mike Davis continued: "We've challenged Bad Company several times for the AWA belts. Usually, interference by their manager, Diamond Dallas Page, provides their margin of victory. We don't need to go to their area, they'll come to us for a challenge,**

(Continued on page 63)

SPORTS REVIEW

Wrestling

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INTRODUCING

MAGNIFICENT MIMI

Not only is Magnificent Mimi beautiful, she's a great wrestler. Ask AWA women's champ Madusa Miceli, who has had all she can handle from the California native. Even Verne Gagne is impressed with Mimi's skills.

"I *NEVER* WOULD have believed that this beautiful young lady could *possibly* be such a superb wrestler," marveled former AWA World champion Verne Gagne. "But this woman has what it takes to become one of the best ever. She looks like the next champion to me."

When a legend like Gagne talks, people listen. Gagne's talking about Magnificent Mimi, a stunning newcomer who has emerged as a top contender to Madusa Miceli's AWA World women's title. Despite only a few appearances, this California-bred enchantress has become one of the most popular wrestlers in the federation.

"The fans have been *so* supportive," said the soft-spoken Los Angeles native. "I need all the help I can get in trying to get title shots against that conniving Madusa, and the fans have been a big help. I'm actually pretty surprised by all the attention I get, considering I'm so new here."

It's not *too* hard to figure out. First, the fans are impressed by her designer ring outfits, flowing brown hair, and sleek 5'8", 135-pound frame. But when she begins to wrestle, it's apparent to everyone that this is one beauty who is also gifted with tremendous athletic ability. An aerial specialist, Mimi's expertly applied flying headscissors and flying bodypresses are making her extremely hard to defeat.

(Continued on page 58)

She looks like a model. She wrestles like a champion. She's Magnificent Mimi, and in just a few months she's successfully established herself as a top contender for the AWA World women's title!

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THE WRESTLER

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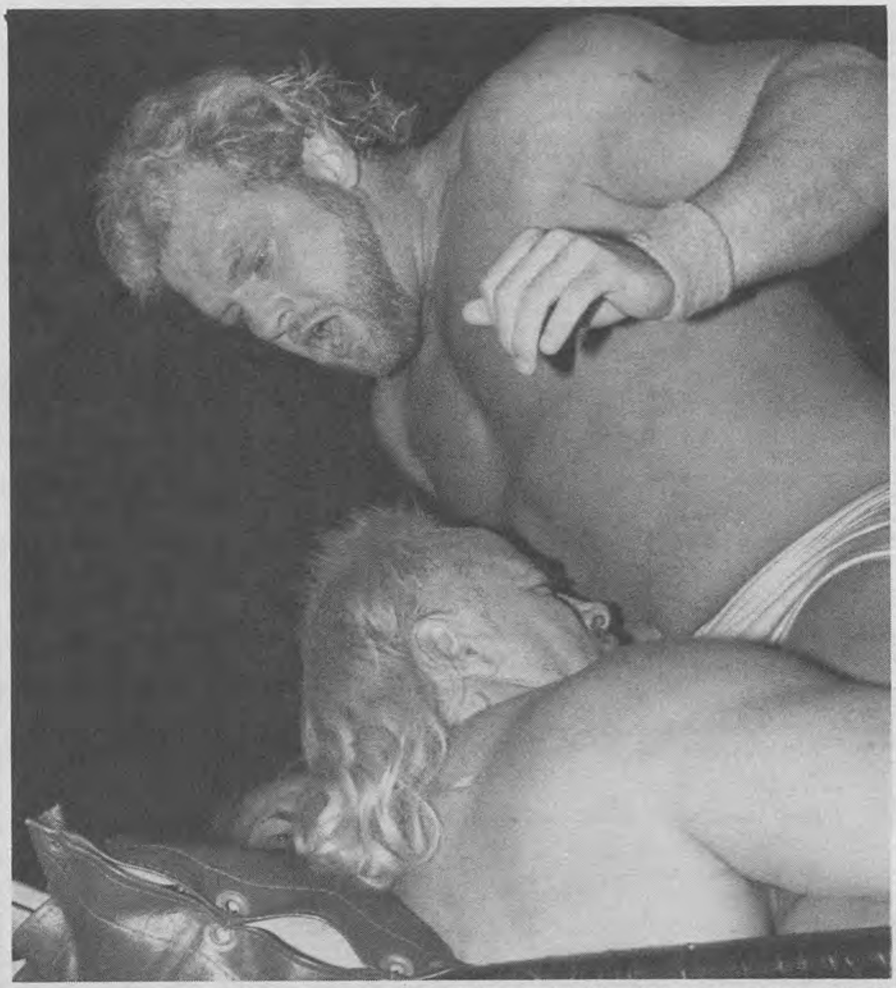
Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds



Eddie Gilbert smothers Kevin Sullivan against the turnbuckle. Gilbert has returned to the NWA to feud with Sullivan's Varsity Club in defense of Jim Garvin.

Q: First of all, Eddie, thanks for taking the time to meet with me.

A: Taking the time? Why wouldn't I want to spend a few minutes with you for your fine magazine?

Q: You're kidding, right? You want me to believe that you *want* to be interviewed by us?

A: That's right, Rodriguez. Maybe I've been slightly less than courteous in the past, but I've got a lot to say right now. I want everyone to know about how I'm coming to the NWA to fight for my injured friend Jimmy Garvin. That's a pretty big announcement when it comes from a guy like "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert.

Q: You still refer to yourself as "Hot Stuff"? To me, that means that even though you'll be fighting on the good side, you're still your old sadistic self. You're still the same man *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* [in its August 1988 issue] demanded be banned from wrestling for throwing fire.

A: Exactly. If necessary, I'll *still* use fire against my enemies; the fans are just going to have to accept that. Besides, I think the fans will begin to trust me when they see me going after their enemies.

Q: Do you really expect them to trust you? I mean, you've not only been a rulebreaker, but you've basically redefined the word "sadist." You threw fire, you used foreign objects, you beat up innocent by-

EDDIE GILBERT

EDDIE GILBERT HAS been a vicious rulebreaker for so long, fans around the country have almost forgotten when he was their favorite. Remember Gilbert's early Memphis days? Remember Gilbert's tenure in the WWF? Well, get ready to refresh your memory: Eddie Gilbert has turned good again!

Jimmy Garvin and Eddie Gilbert have been friends since Gilbert broke into wrestling. They've teamed as fan favorites and as rulebreakers. Although their alliance has laid dormant for many years, their friendship never died. Through the years, Eddie and Jimmy have kept in touch.

When Gilbert learned that Kevin Sullivan and The Varsity Club injured his old friend, he pulled out of Continental's Road To Birmingham tournament to move to the NWA as Garvin's avenger. The Varsity Club is Gilbert's target, and he intends to begin their dismantling by concentrating on Rick Steiner.

Assistant Editor Andy Rodriguez flew to Gilbert's home in Tennessee for this interview. He found Gilbert far less hostile than expected and ready to discuss a wide range of topics including Garvin, Steiner, the Road To Birmingham tournament, and his wife, Missy Hyatt.

Sullivan runs Gilbert into the ringpost. Gilbert says that although some fans may be treating him more favorably, his style hasn't changed. He says he'll still throw fire to defend himself if he thinks it's necessary.

standers—they're simply not going to trust you.

A: **Well, maybe they won't trust me initially, but once they see me rip into Kevin Sullivan or Rick Steiner, they'll get behind me 100 percent. I don't doubt their support for a minute. Not that that's going to faze me either way. I don't need the fans in order to get my satisfaction in this sport, but I do anticipate their support.**

Q: Getting back to Steiner. You used to be his manager, weren't you? You must have parted on bad terms.

A: **I'll say. Steiner's an idiot.**

Q: That's all? There must be something else.

A: **There is, but I don't want to get into it. The man is just an idiot, that's all.**

Q: It wouldn't have to do with any relationship he might have had with Missy Hyatt, would it?

A: **You keep Missy out of this, you little scum, because I've got a fireball all ready with your name on it. Missy had *nothing* to do with it. Steiner just took off and left me. I was managing him and Sting at the same time. We were just about to go for a big push when he up and left. That's why I refer to him as an idiot. Even mentioning Missy indicates to me what a naive journalist you really are, Rodriguez.**

Q: Knowing your personality, though, I'm surprised you let Steiner go unpunished for so long. Surely you've had opportunities for a little payback.

A: **Certainly, boy, but I've also had opportunities to take on more important wrestlers than him. Steiner's a nobody, and I wouldn't bother with him if it wasn't for Jimmy [Garvin]. Did you want me to run away from my feud with Jerry Lawler to go after Steiner? Did you want me to give up a chance to wreak havoc throughout the country on an independent tour with Paul E. Dangerously and Col. DeBeers? So you see, I couldn't just *abandon* my other commitments to go after Steiner. Besides, he's not going anywhere. He's not *talented* enough to go anywhere.**

Q: Let's get back to Dangerously for a second. Where do you stand with him?

A: **Well, we've parted company for a while. Paul and I have some fundamental philosophical differences, and we both thought it was necessary to pursue our own goals. There's a chance he might even end up in the NWA soon. If that's**

the case, if we team up again, that would be great. But if not, well, that's fine, too. I'm grateful for everything he's ever done for me. We've had a great time on the road, and he's a great manager.

Q: When you say "philosophical differences," do you mean that you had to break up because you knew that Dangerously would never be accepted by the fans you're trying to endear?

A: I already told you, I don't *need* the fans to succeed. If they want to support me, that's okay, but you're trying to get me to say that Dangerously and I are no longer close. Well, I'm afraid I can't say that. We still communicate regularly. The only difference is that he's no longer my manager. I don't need that approach to wrestling right now.

Q: You mean the rulebreaking, the fire-throwing, the beatings, and the foreign objects?

A: Your words, Rodriguez. When my job is done here, maybe Paul and I will see eye to eye again. But for the time being, I don't need to break any rules—unless I'm forced to.

Q: Your other targets are Sullivan and Rotundo. Why?

A: Why? How can you ask that question? Didn't you see what they did to Jimmy Garvin?

Q: Of course I did. But why does that affect you so much?

A: Another naive question. Jimmy and I are old friends. I owe him enough favors, it's like the U.S. national debt. When I saw how Sullivan and Rotundo ganged up on Jimmy, I knew it was time to act. And this is one favor that Jimmy didn't even have to call in, even though he did. I'll do it for free.

Q: Wait a minute. Jimmy Garvin *called* you for help?

A: Don't you be printing that crap, Rodriguez, or I'll come up there and kick your hide from Times Square to Montauk Point and right off the end of Long Island!

Q: What about Garvin's phone call?

With Jim Garvin and Precious at his side, Gilbert tells the world he's back in the NWA to help an old friend (above). Gilbert managed Sting and Rick Steiner in the UWF (below).

Did he or did he not call you for help?

A: He most certainly did *not* call me for help, but he *did* call me. After being roughed up by Sullivan's thugs, Jimmy was in a lot of pain. He knew he couldn't wrestle for a while, what with a broken leg and all. If he couldn't wrestle, he said, how was he going to get the revenge he wanted? I said, "Say no more, Jimmy," and got on the next plane. Jimmy Garvin did *not* beg me to fight his battles, but he's mighty glad I'm joining him.

Q: You must have had to drop a lot to come to the NWA. You were already entered in Continental's Road To Birmingham tournament

A: Yeah, but leaving the tourney was no big deal.

Q: No big deal? You put up $25,000 to anyone who could beat you in the CWF, and by pulling out of the tournament you forfeited that money!

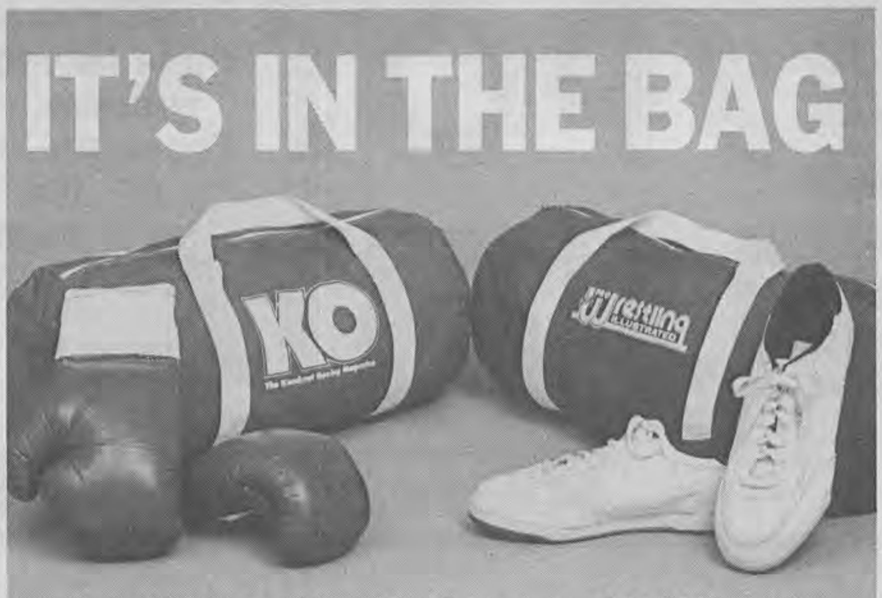
A: Like I said, no big deal.

Q: C'mon, Eddie, $25,000 is a lot of money no matter *who* you are.

A: Well, I'm not saying I don't miss it, but how many more fur coats can I buy Missy? How many cars can I drive? I don't need so much petty cash lying around. Sure I lost the money, but only because *I* left, not because someone beat me. Besides, Jimmy means more to me than 25 grand. I get enough satisfaction knowing that no one beat me to get that money.

Q: But you *did* skip town.

A: So what? You're trying to say that I ran away because I was scared? If I'm such a wimp, how come I'm coming to the NWA to take on three goons? How come I'm sacrificing lucrative independent deals to come to the aid of an old friend? Bet you can't answer that one, Rodriguez! But I'll answer it for you: Because Eddie Gilbert is a man of honor. You may not believe it, the fans may not believe it, but pay close attention to me over the next few months: You'll find out that it's the absolute truth. □



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From time to time, *The Wrestler* will shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. These are unforgettable highlights of the sport's greatest stars, compiled by the largest staff of editors and photographers in wrestling journalism

RONNIE GARVIN

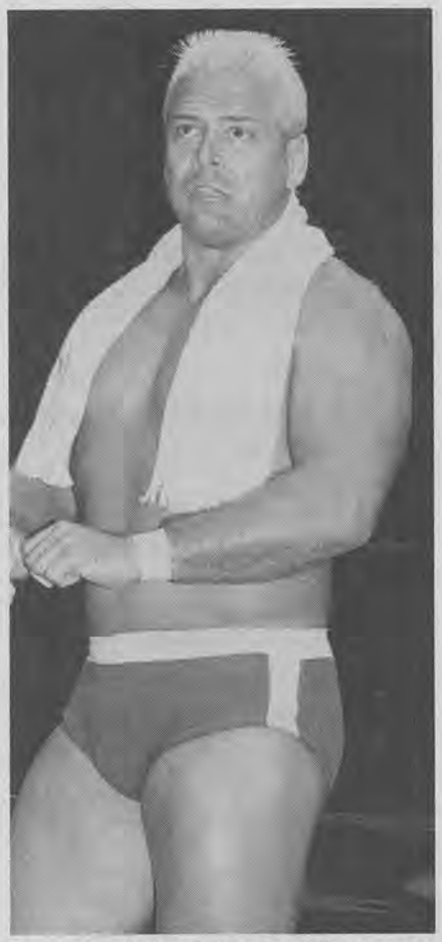
THE AWA TV title is only the latest accomplishment for Ronnie Garvin, a 23-year veteran of the sport who has been the target of both the fans' adulation and wrath.

Garvin turned pro in Montreal in 1965. Before then, he had been not only an amateur wrestler, but had boxed and played hockey. Gordon Solie gave him the nickname "Hands of Stone" in the early 1970s due to his boxing skills.

With his brother Jimmy as manager, Ronnie and his other brother Terry became one of the sport's most dominant teams in 1973 and 1974. When the brothers split up, Ronnie went to Tennessee, where he won the Southeast title. In Georgia, Garvin engaged in a violent feud with Jake Roberts. In 1984, Garvin and Jerry Oates won the National tag team title from The Road Warriors.

After they lost the belts in September 1984, Garvin returned to singles action. He won the National heavyweight title from Ted DiBiase in October and held it until June 1985, when he lost to Black Bart. That summer, he reunited with his brother Jimmy for one match in Montreal.

At the 1986 Crockett Cup, Garvin teamed with Magnum T.A. They reached the finals, where they lost to The Road Warriors. His next challenge was a feud with Tully Blanchard that culminated in a series of taped-fist matches at the 1986 Great American Bash.



Ronnie Garvin has held many titles throughout his career. His latest is the AWA TV belt, which he won from Greg Gagne.

In early 1987, Garvin had an emotional reunion with his brother Jimmy, who had rescued Ronnie after a fireball attack from Jim Cornette. Ronnie then beat up Cornette in a cage match. However, the Garvins were eliminated from the 1987 Crockett Cup by Cornette's Midnight Express.

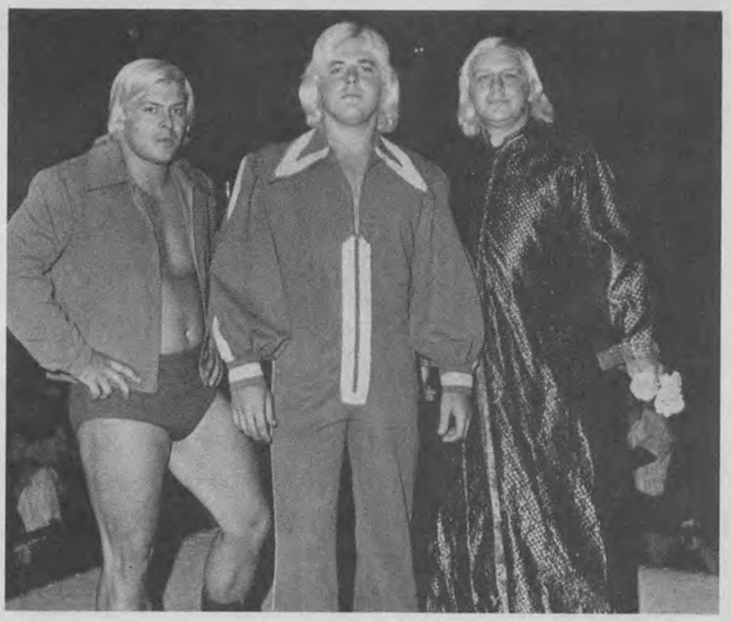
Garvin's main goal became Ric Flair's NWA World title. With Jimmy's help, he engaged the champion in bizarre psychological warfare: When Flair won a date with Precious by defeating Jimmy, the substitution on the date was "Miss Atlanta Lively"—said to be Ronnie in drag, though he denies it to this day. The ploy worked; Flair was, by his own admission, driven almost insane.

Soon Garvin was getting his title shots at Flair, getting closer to the belt on each occasion. Finally, on September 25, 1987, in Detroit, Garvin won the championship after nearly 40 minutes of intense action inside a steel cage.

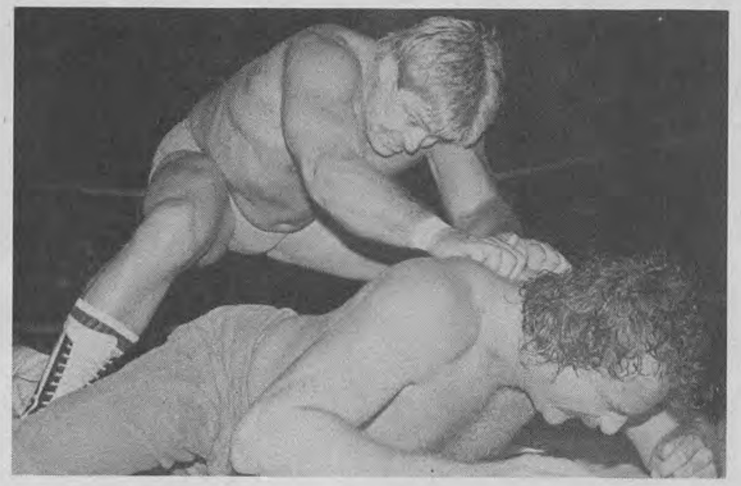
Although he promised to be a "working-class champion," Garvin disappointed his followers by sharply curtailing his title defenses in preparation for a steel cage rematch with Flair at Starrcade '87, a match he lost.

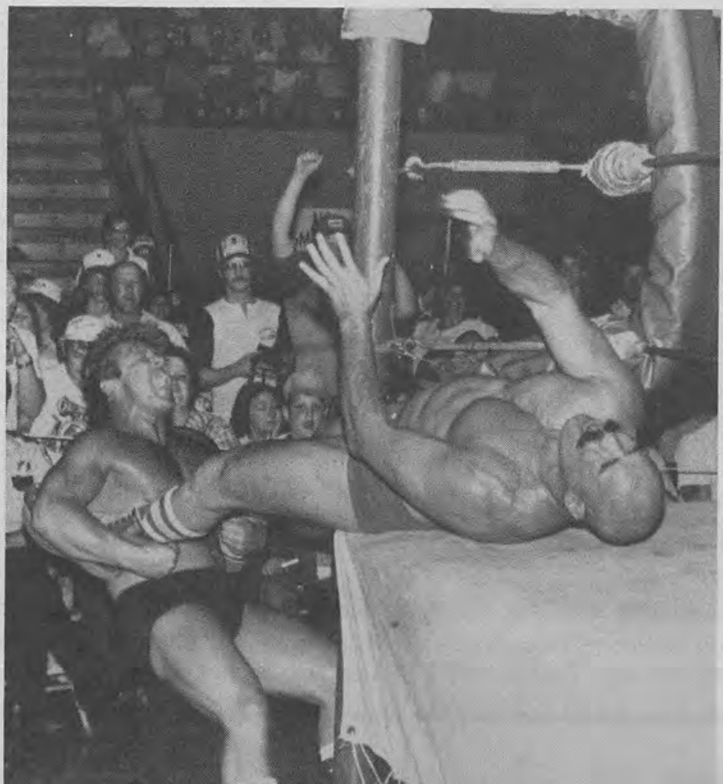
Disgusted by what he perceived as a lack of respect, Garvin (with money from J.J. Dillon and Gary Hart) turned against Dusty Rhodes at The Great American Bash in Baltimore on July 10, 1988. Although financially satisfied, Garvin didn't like the competition, so he left the NWA for the AWA.

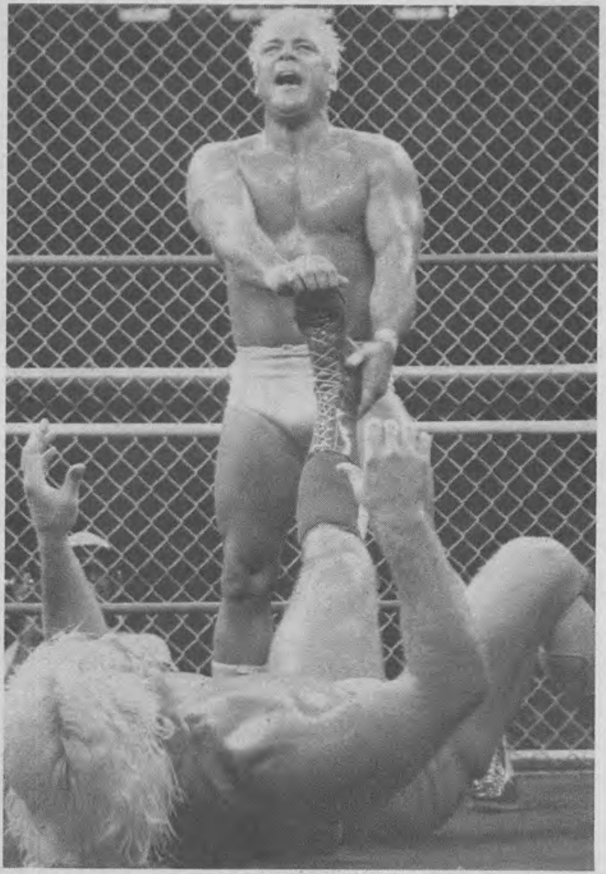
On his first night in the AWA, Garvin won the AWA TV title from Greg Gagne. A rematch is set for SuperClash III in Chicago on December 13, which makes this a good time for **The Wrestler** *to "Spotlight" Garvin's career highlights.* □



Ronnie Garvin wrestled with his brothers Jim and Terry in 1974 (above). Garvin rakes Jake Roberts in the back (below). His feud with "The Snake" was one of the hottest of 1984.







Garvin sets up Ric Flair for a figure-four leglock during the match in which he won the NWA World title (above). Ronnie posts The Iron Sheik (bottom left). He and Mr. Wrestling II double-team Road Warrior Hawk (below).

X-RAY

THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

Each month THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal

Abdullah the Butcher chokes Dutch Mantel in a match in Puerto Rico, where Abdullah is feared by fans as well as wrestlers. The Butcher is rumored to soon be bringing his own special brand of bloody mayhem to NWA rings.

CAPT. LOU ALBANO
"During my rulebreaking days, I managed some of the toughest, meanest men ever to lace up a pair of wrestling boots. I could even handle savages like George Steele and Moondog Mayne without too much trouble. But one man I refused to get involved with was Abdullah. In the '70s, I was considered pretty crazy, but nobody was loonier than Abdullah—and that's *still* true. He's the scariest, ugliest, meanest, ugliest, scariest creature ever born, daddy!"

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.

KILLER KOWALSKI
"I've always prided myself on my rulebreaking ability. In the history of the sport, though, I'd have to say that the two most bloodthirsty men ever are The Sheik and Abdullah. For a long time, Sheik was standing alone on top of that mountain of gore, but if Abby keeps it up, he'll be remembered as the most evil wrestler of all time. After 21 years in wrestling he's responsible for spilling more plasma than anyone else. I envy that."

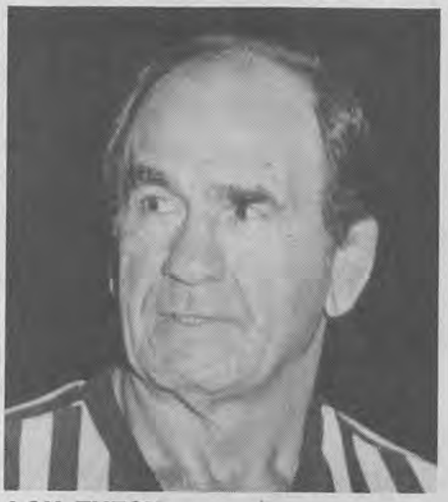
Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.

PROF. TORU TANAKA
"The proper way to prove the worth of a wrestler is to look at the men he has bested. Abdullah has defeated all of the great ones. He has taken my countrymen Giant Baba and Tor Kamata and beaten them within an inch of their lives. And Abdullah was the only man who could bring a giant like Bruiser Brody to his knees. Brody used to admit that Abdullah was the toughest man he ever faced. I can give no better credit than that. Abdullah is a true legend."

Prof. Tanaka, a three-time co-holder of the WWF World tag team title with Mr. Fuji, is currently a successful actor.

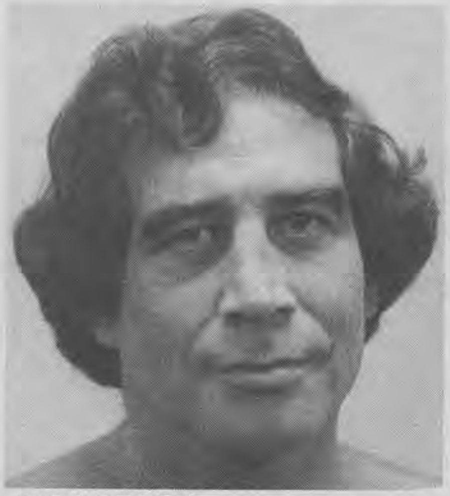
LARRY HENNIG
"Did I ever tell you about the time I tried to team up with that animal? On second thought, I'd better not—this is a family magazine, isn't it? I've seen a lot of wrestlers in my fabled career, but this is the only one who doesn't care about winning or losing. All Abdullah wants to do is maim every opponent he faces. He even seems to enjoy it when someone deepens the grooves in that fat, scarred head of his. I don't even like to think about that ugly goon. *Ugh!*"

Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



LOU THESZ
"I don't blame Abdullah for all the injuries he's caused in his career. Actually, I blame the promoters. The men who make the matches know exactly what they're getting into when they bring this crazed madman into their federations, but they keep inviting him back again and again. The only way to get rid of a problem like this is to simply stop signing that monster for matches. Let him find a vocation he's more suited for, like animal skinning or something."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



JACK BRISCO
"Something has to be done about this man. Back in August, he wrestled a rookie named Frank Melson at the Chicago Amphitheatre. Abdullah made Melson lose so much blood that he went into shock and had to be taken from the arena in an ambulance. That's no way for a fine, young athlete to be treated, and it's nothing that this great sport can be proud about. Allowing Abdullah to compete is sanctioning legalized brutality. He *must* be stopped."

Jack Brisco is a two-time former NWA World champion, and a three-time former NWA World tag team champion with brother Jerry.

A Place Among

Photos by Anastasia Pantsios & Bill Apter

"OOH, BABY, YOU'RE beautiful! What a natural! Now, flex those muscles. Yeah! That one's a definite winner."

Madusa Miceli, clad in one of her more revealing wrestling outfits, certainly is a winner—she's the AWA World women's champion. On this occasion, she listlessly struck poses for a famous New York photographer who was busily shooting dozens of publicity stills for the AWA.

"Madusa, that was one of the best photo sets I've done in a long time," the photographer enthused afterward. "I know you're not really used to posing, but you could be a top model if you set your mind to it. How would you like to work with me again on some fashion or glamor sessions? There's some really fine money in this kind of work, you know."

"Not on your life, you slimy lens jockey," spit Miceli. "I am a professional athlete and a champion, not another bimbo model looking for a free lunch. Frankly, hanging around people like you makes my skin crawl. Now get out of my way—I've got to get back to training."

With that, Miceli threw on her ring robe and walked away from the photo set.

"What did I say?" asked the photographer. "What made her so mad?"

•

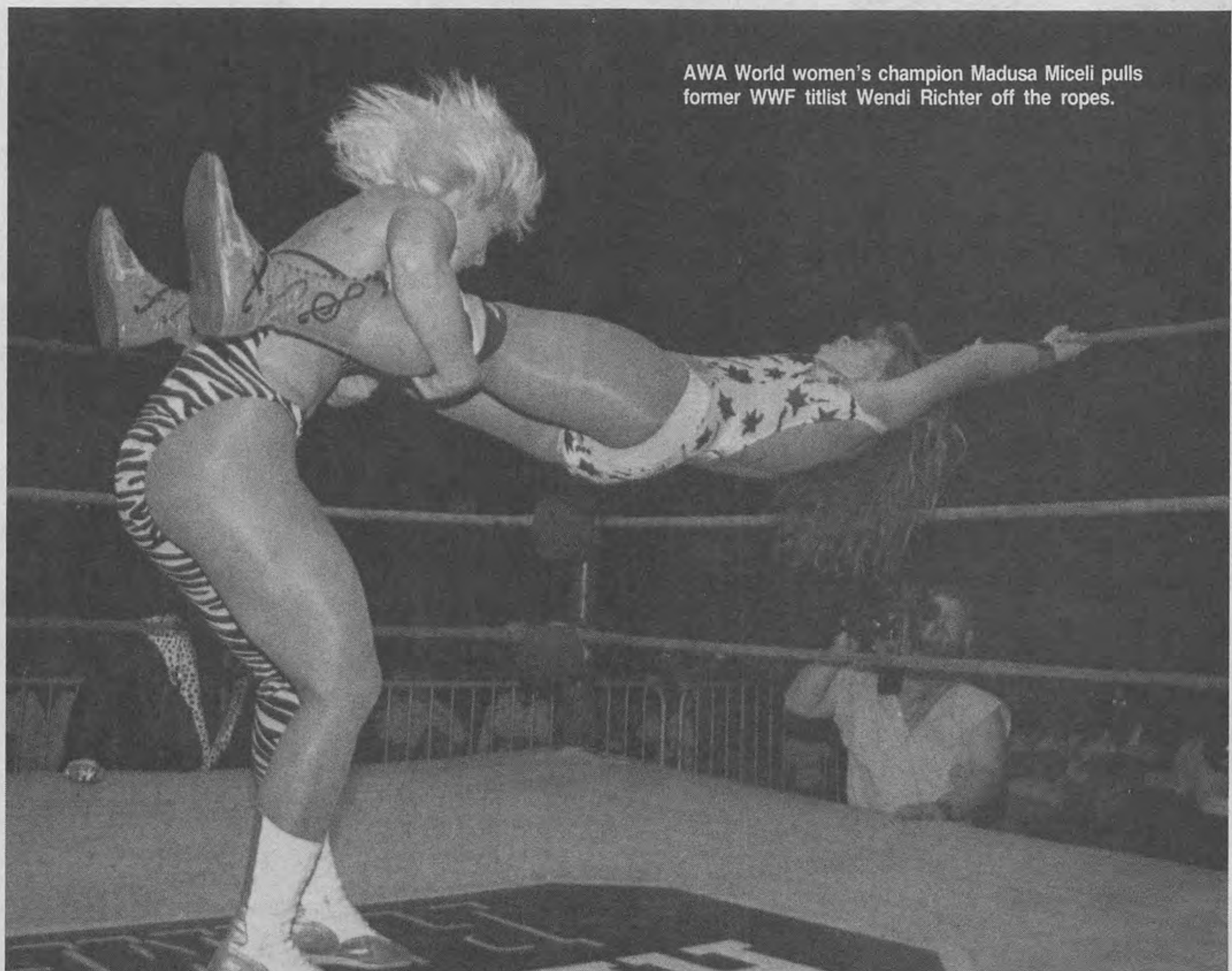
Madusa Miceli is *still* angry. She wasn't *really* mad at the photographer. In reality, she was angry about the public's perception of her. She realized the sexy photos she posed for weren't

(Continued on page 50)

Madusa Miceli wants to be more than another pretty face, more than the current AWA World women's champion. She's taking on legends like Wendi Richter and The Fabulous Moolah—and she's staking her claim as one of the greatest female wrestlers of our time!

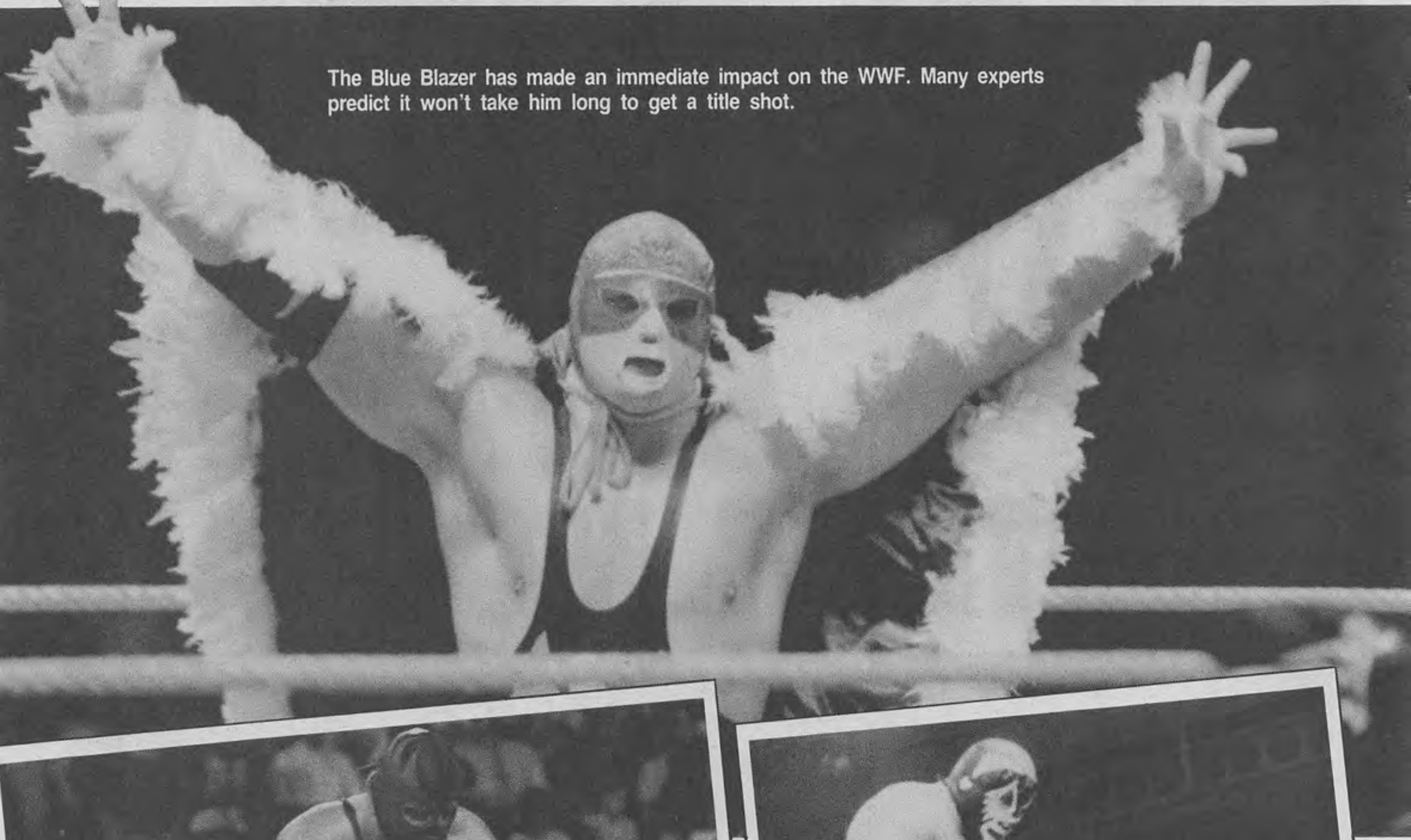
The Legends:

MADUSA MICELI *DEFEATS* RICHTER & MOOLAH!

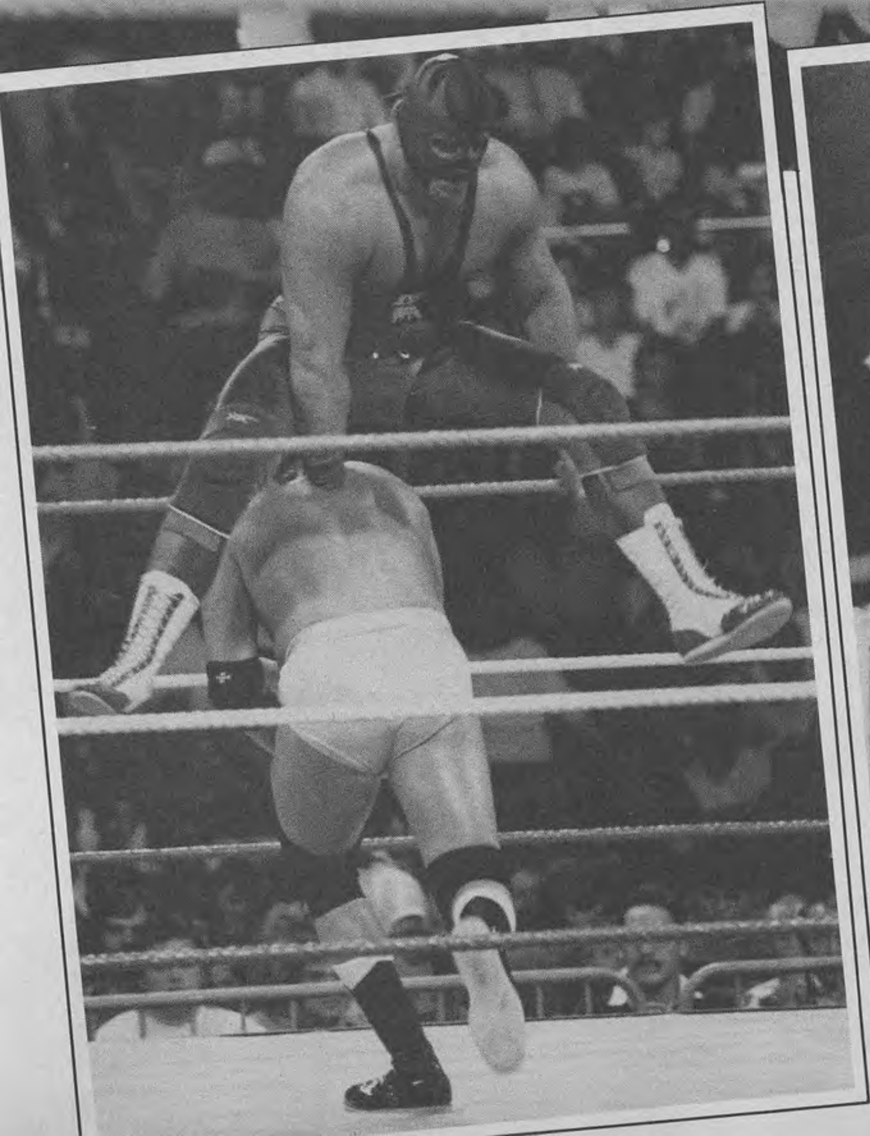


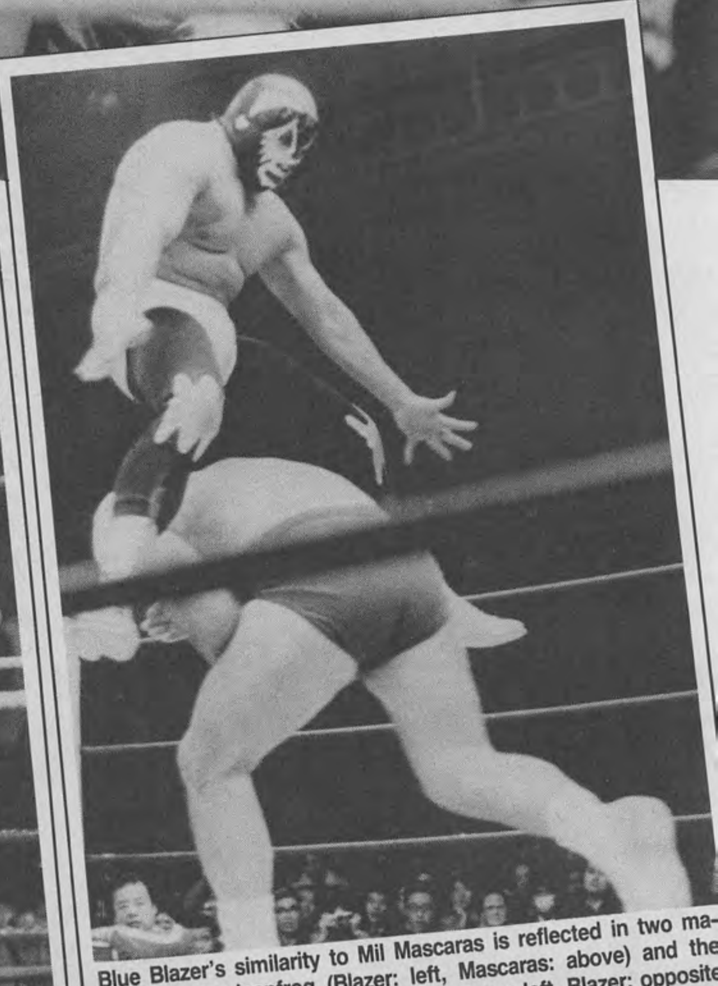
AWA World women's champion Madusa Miceli pulls former WWF titlist Wendi Richter off the ropes.

IS THE *BLUE BLAZER*



The Blue Blazer has made an immediate impact on the WWF. Many experts predict it won't take him long to get a title shot.





Blue Blazer's similarity to Mil Mascaras is reflected in two maneuvers: the leapfrog (Blazer: left, Mascaras: above) and the flying bodypress (Mascaras: opposite page left, Blazer: opposite page right). Both men execute these maneuvers with uncommon athletic skill and grace.

THE MIL MASCARAS OF THE 1990s?

Two decades ago, a masked wrestler with unusual and exciting maneuvers made a remarkable impact on the sport. His name was Mil Mascaras. Today, another masked man is having similar impact. His name is The Blue Blazer, and he's already being compared favorably with the legendary "Man of 1,000 Masks"

WHEN THE BLUE Blazer entered the WWF, fellow wrestlers didn't know what to make of him. They saw a man in a flashy costume and laughed.

They're not laughing anymore. The Blue Blazer is dominating his opponents with moves many of us have never seen before.

His opponents don't care where he's from; they don't care where he's been. They just know they'd better devise some defenses—quick!—or they'll lose almost before they step into the ring.

"He can't be from this planet," said one admirer, echoing a common response to the Blazer's talents. "Where did he learn those moves? *Nobody* teaches skills like that. If there were a wrestling school that taught those things, it would make a mint. Naw, there's something weird at work in that boy."

What's at work is good old-fashioned scientific ability combined with a dazzling repertoire of aerial maneuvers that impresses even the most seasoned observer. He is the most purely scientific wrestler to enter the WWF since The Dynamite Kid. Suplexes, armdrag takedowns, and sunset flips are not only executed flawlessly, they're a joy to watch—for fans, that is. For opponents, it's anything but fun.

"I hope I never have to wrestle him again," said one who requested to remain anonymous. "It's humiliating. I consider myself a pretty good wrestler, and he made me look like a stiff."

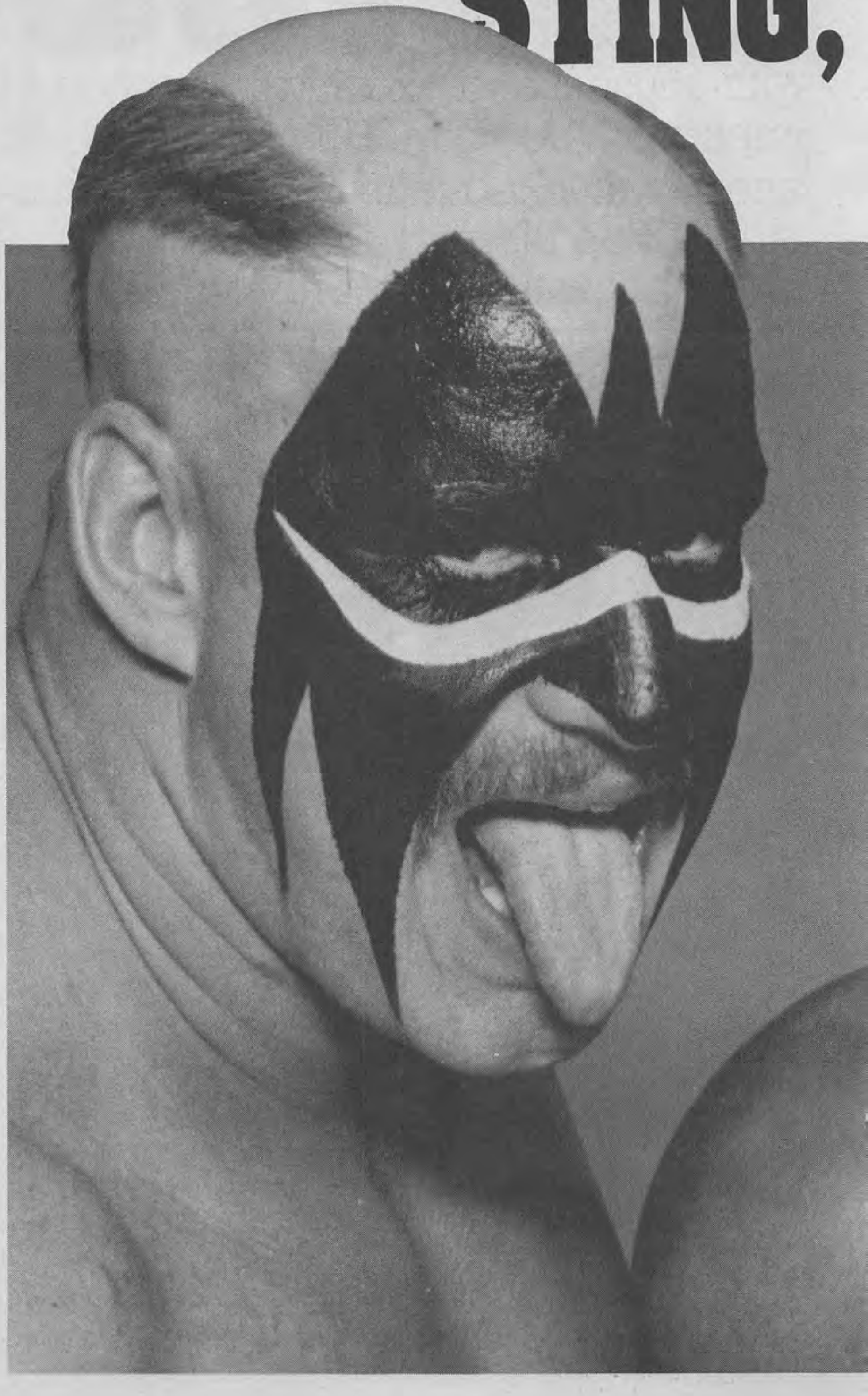
The Blazer won't talk about himself. He prefers to let his wrestling do the talking for him. Good choice.

"The Blazer is terrific!" enthused Senior Editor Bill Apter, who has viewed every new arrival in the sport in the past 20 years with a keen professional's eye. "The only man I can even

(Continued on page 54)

THE ROAD

"STING,



THE ROAD WARRIORS haven't forgotten, and they intend to make you remember. Remember the horror, the blood, the carnage, and the nightmares.

Only three years ago, Animal and Hawk were the most hated tag team in wrestling. You hated them. They hated you. "The Legion of Doom" took great pride in tearing out an opponent's guts and making you sick to your stomach. They didn't care if they broke the rules; Animal and Hawk didn't care *what* you thought about them.

They just didn't give a damn.

They especially hated Dusty Rhodes. In fact, the Warriors battled Rhodes and various partners in a series of matches that were so violent, that caused so much bloodshed, that tapes of these matches are still banned from being shown on many television stations. Rhodes has tried to forget about those matches. But now he has no choice.

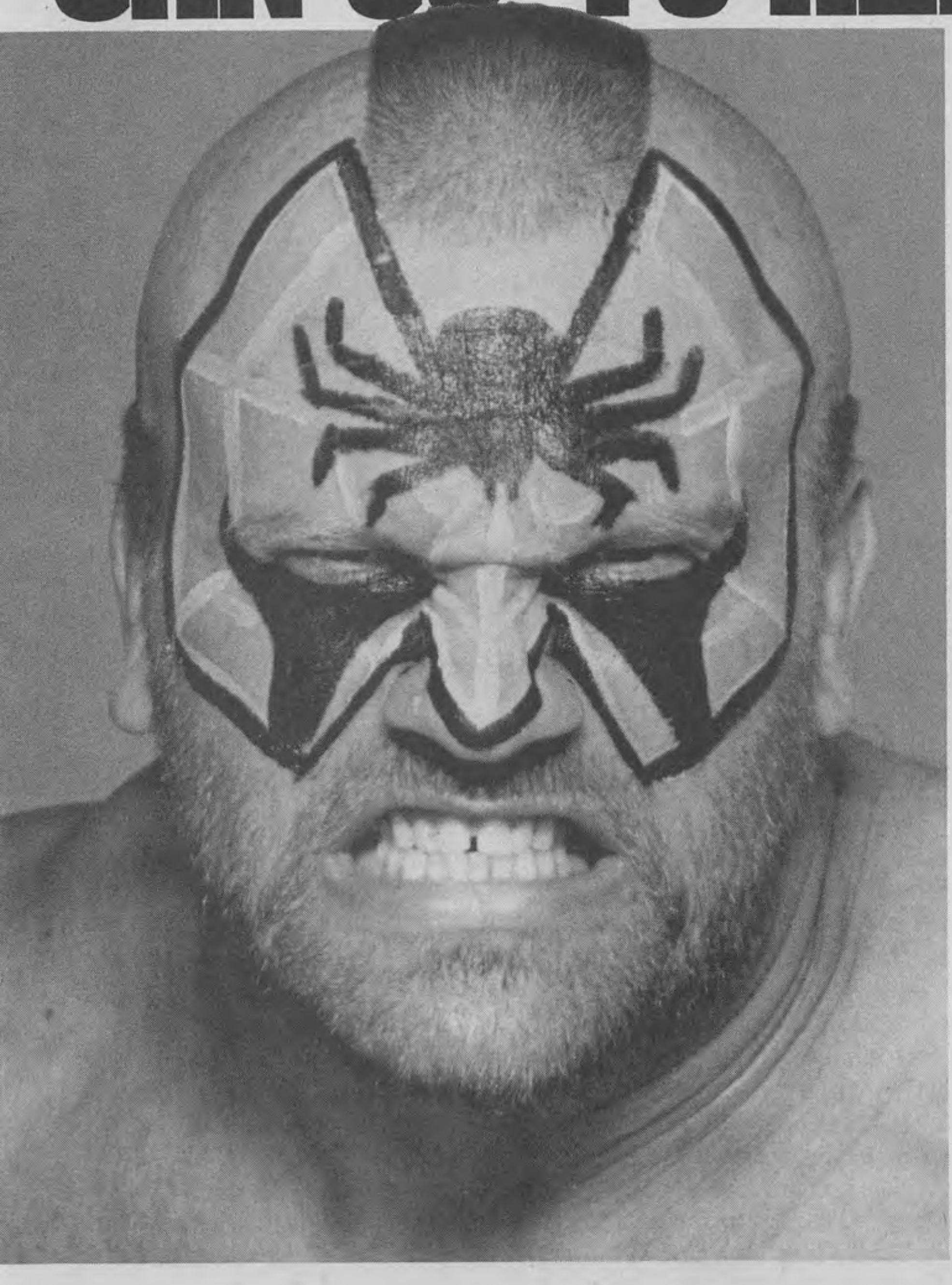
Now he must remember. And so must you. And Sting. And anybody else who dares to stand in their way. Because The Road Warriors' new motto, spoken identically by each member, has resounded across the country as a statement of new horror, terror, and nightmares to come:

"Sting, Rhodes, and the fans can go to hell!"

The fans will not be along for the ride when the Warriors win their first NWA World tag team championship. "We don't need them," growled Animal.

Rhodes and Sting will not join in the victory celebration. "If they take one step near us," warned Hawk, "it'll be the last step they ever take. I'll have their heads sitting on my mantelpiece."

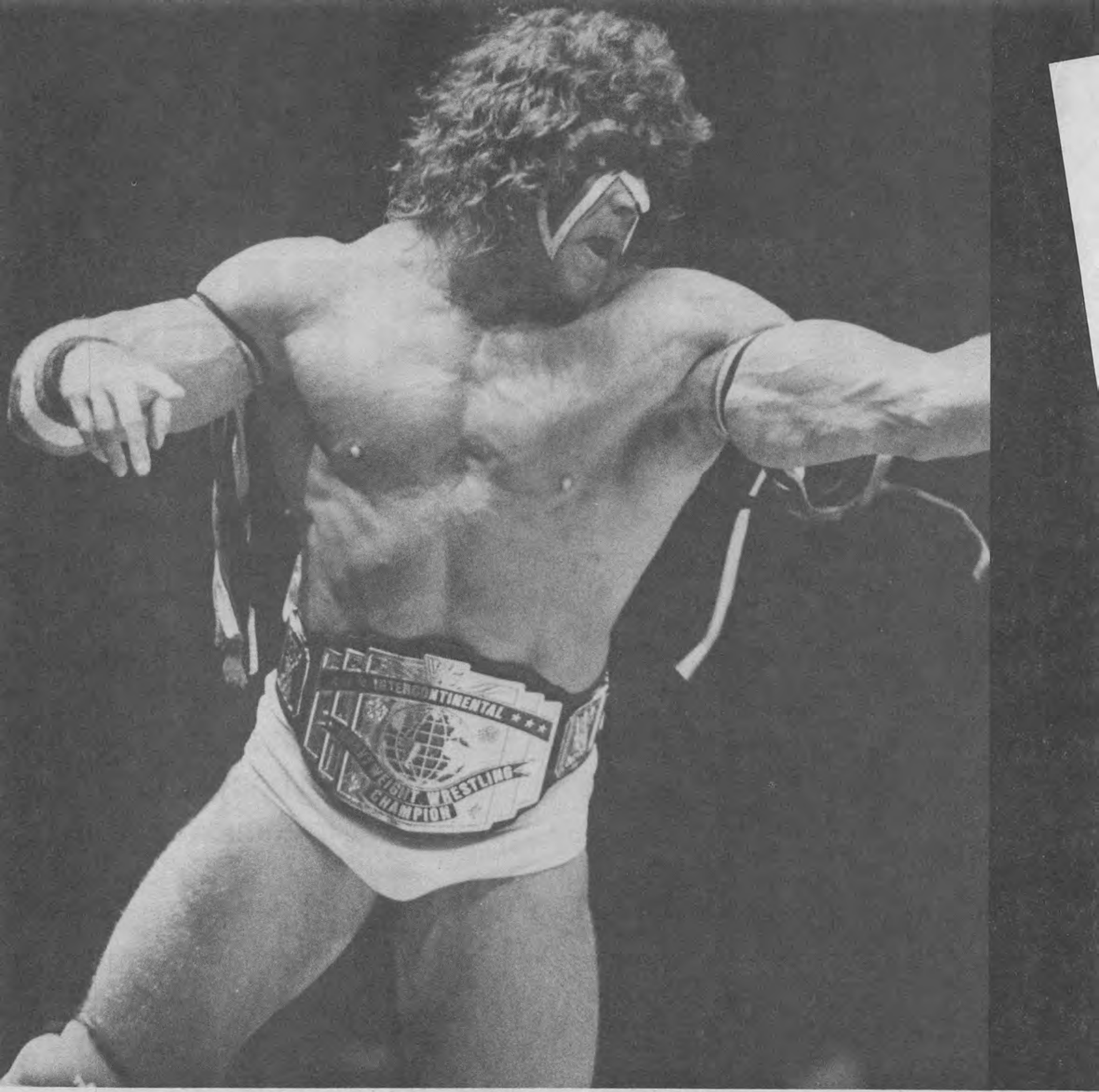
WARRIORS: DUSTY, & THE FANS CAN GO TO HELL!"



Animal and Hawk are on a full-fledged tour of terror, and they plan to stomp on anybody who gets in their way. But first, "The Legion of Doom" has a message for their former friends and fans: "Go to hell, wimps! We don't need you!"

Such added viciousness from a team that has already been known to take great delight in destroying lesser opponents can only strike fear in the hearts of other teams in the NWA. Over in the WWF, The Powers of Pain have to be thankful that they left the NWA. One can only

(Continued on page 56)



WWF INTERCONTINENTAL champion The Ultimate Warrior is bored. Former WWF World champion Hulk Hogan is bored.

What's a muscleman to do?

Wrestle another muscleman!

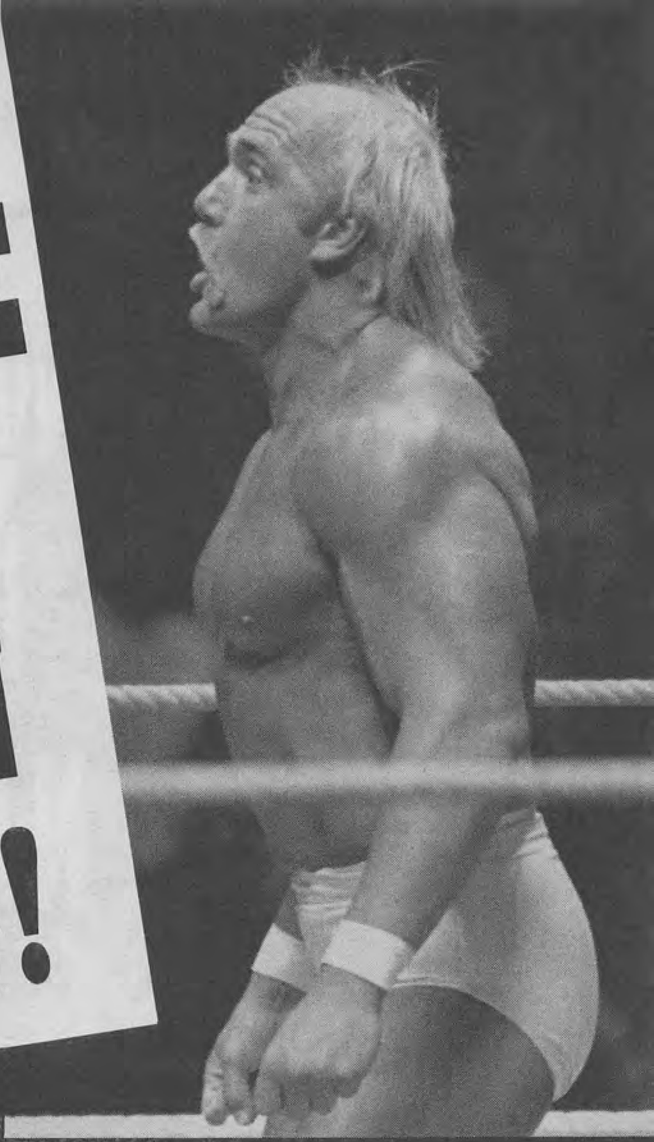
It's coming! The match you've waited for! The ultimate battle of the WWF's ultimate musclemen! The supreme battle of brawn vs. brawn, ego vs. ego, power vs. power, pose vs. pose! The Ultimate Warrior is sick of tossing aside The Honky Tonk Man. Hulk Hogan is sick of waiting for a shot at World champion Randy Savage.

And if they don't wrestle each other soon, they'll simply go out of their minds!

It'll happen because they want it. It'll happen because, at this stage, nothing else *can* happen.

"The fans are sick of seeing The Ultimate Warrior beat up The Honky Tonk Man," said a WWF insider. "It's happened so many times, it's not even exciting anymore. The only time Honky Tonk ever gets the edge is when he hits Ultimate over the head with his guitar, and that's not wrestling. As for Hogan, he's wasting his time with Big Bossman and those guys. Why in the world should a former champion wrestle non-champions? If he can't wrestle Savage—and he's certainly not going to publicly ask for a match with his close friend—

It's Coming! AN ULTIMATE WARRIOR – HULK HOGAN SHOWDOWN!



It can't happen? Fan favorites don't wrestle fan favorites in the WWF, you say? Well, guess again, because it *is* going to happen. And when The Ultimate Warrior battles Hulk Hogan, it's sure to be the ultimate battle!

The Ultimate Warrior aims Butch Reed at the turnbuckle (left). Defending the Intercontinental title apparently is not enough for the Warrior; he wants Hogan!

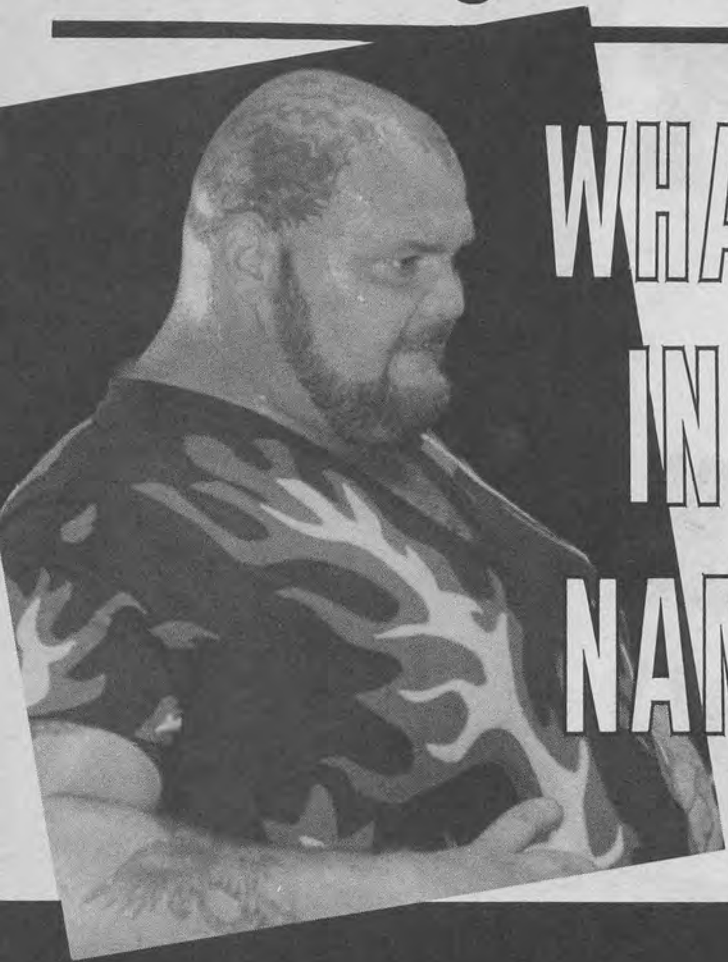
he has to wrestle the Warrior."

Of course, that poses the same problem as a Hogan-Savage match: The WWF simply refuses to schedule matches pitting fan favorite against fan favorite or rulebreaker against rulebreaker. Apparently, the powers that be haven't realized that you don't have to hate a man to wrestle him. Wrestling is a sport, not a war. Ultimate Warrior vs. Hulk Hogan

(Continued on page 60)

Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Bamm Bamm Gordy:

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



VIOLENCE!

THE WAR MADE no sense at all. It wasn't a battle for a title or even a spot in the ratings. It was two men literally going out of their way to face off over something as insignificant as a name.

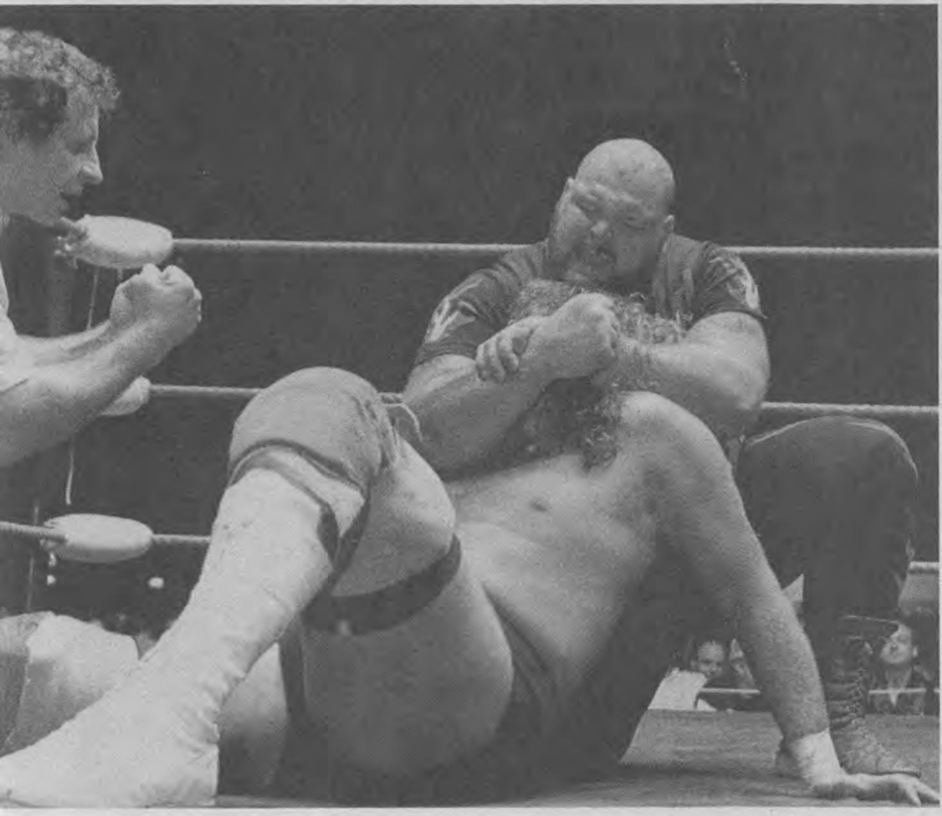
"There's only one 'Bamm Bamm' in wrestling, and that's Terry 'Bamm Bamm' Gordy," Gordy shouted. "Bigelow? Hell, brother, I wouldn't even *know* that name if I didn't read your magazines. When that tattooed fat boy came down to Texas, he was known as Crusher Yurkof just to keep from getting me mad!"

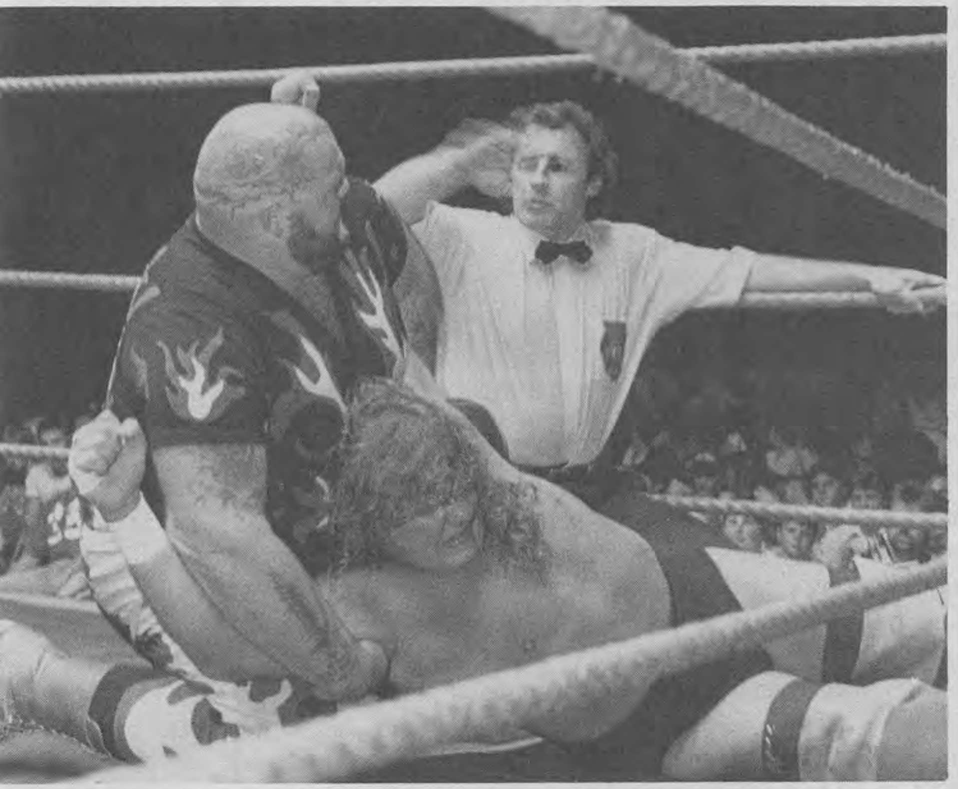
"When people hear the name 'Bam Bam,'" Bigelow responded, "I don't want people thinking about that slob, Gordy. When I get through with him, he'll be lucky if people remember his name at all!"

For all the tough talk, this match would never have taken place if Oliver Humperdink and Michael Hayes had their way. Humperdink, Bigelow's manager, and Hayes, Gordy's adviser, were not around

Against the managerial wishes of Oliver Humperdink, Bam Bam Bigelow returned to Chicago to wrestle Terry "Bamm Bamm" Gordy. The match, billed as "The Battle of the Bam Bams," far exceeded the Windy City's expectations for violence!

Photos by Mike Gratchner





Bam Bam Bigelow crunches Terry "Bamm Bamm" Gordy with a chinlock (top left). The referee makes Bigelow relinquish his hold (left). Gordy sets up Bigelow for a piledriver (above). Their one-night feud centered around who deserves the Bam Bam name.

when the match was signed by promoters from Chicago's Windy City Wrestling. Between the time Bigelow left the WWF and the time he signed with the NWA, Bigelow signed a contract with Windy City to wrestle under the management of Paul E. Dangerously. When his contract with the NWA began, however, Bigelow still owed the Chicago promoters one more bout.

Not wanting to waste a great opportunity, Windy City offered Gordy a one-night contract to wrestle Bigelow. Gordy eagerly accepted the chance to settle the "Bam Bam" controversy; Bigelow was equally eager to face Gordy.

"You can't wrestle in Chicago," Humperdink told his charge. "You have a contract with the NWA! You can't wrestle for Dangerously, either. You have a contract with me!"

"Calm down, Oliver," Bigelow said. "It's only for one night. The NWA understands that I have a prior contract. I thought you'd be man enough to accept that, too."

"It's not that," Humperdink said, revealing his true concerns. "Gordy is dangerous. You might get hurt and blow the whole NWA gig."

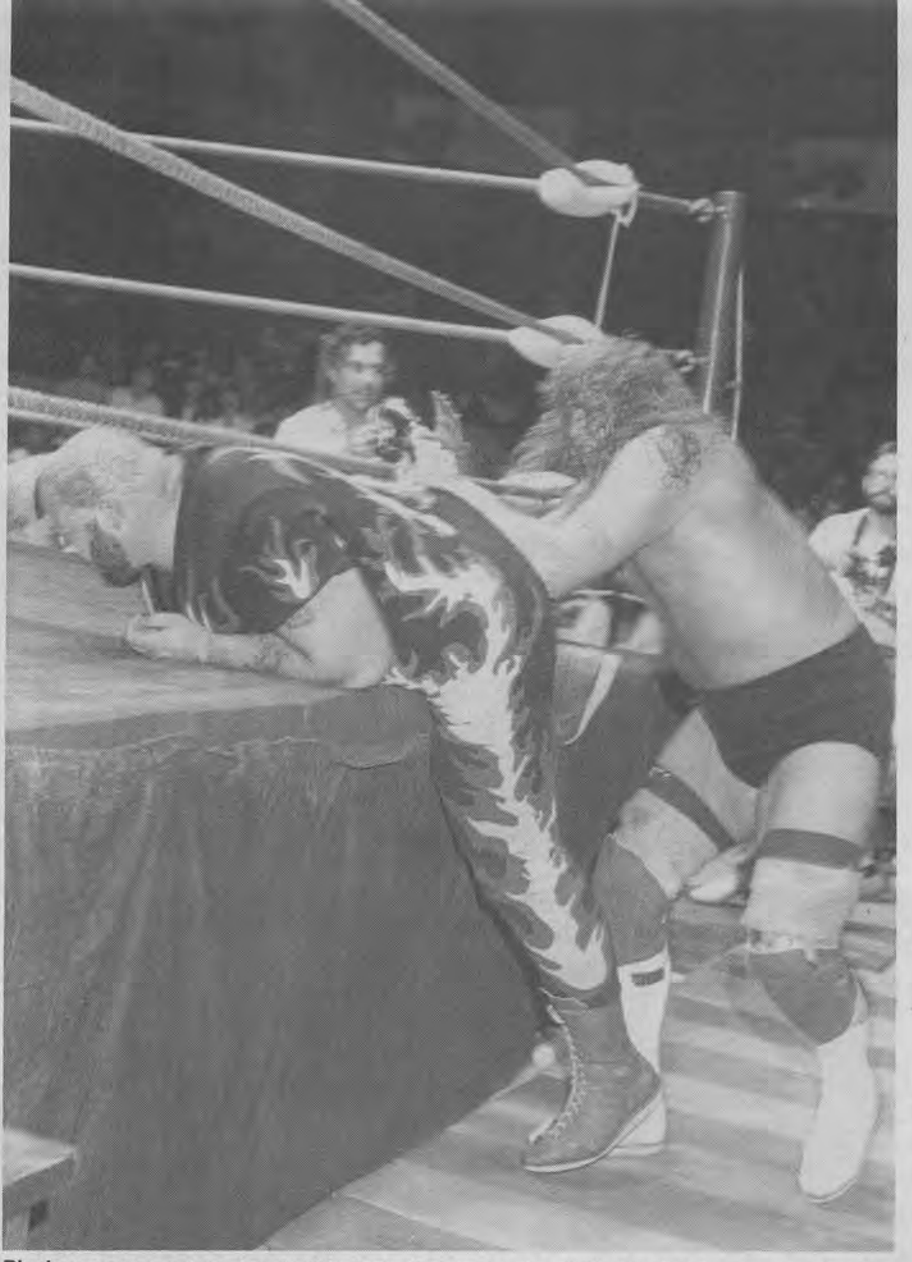
"Dangerous? Hurt?" Bigelow screamed. "I don't know the *meanings* of those words! Bam Bam Bigelow doesn't worry about danger, and that's what I have to prove—now I guess I have to prove it to you, too. Look, I won't have *any* problem with this powder puff."

While Bigelow and Humperdink worked out the details of Bigelow's participation in the match, a similar conversation was taking place in

Texas.

"Hey, Terry," Michael Hayes said. "Why go all the way up there for one match? Besides, this guy Bigelow is pretty tough. Remember when he came to World Class? He won the TV title right away."

"Tough? If he's so tough, why'd he changed his name to Yurkof when he wrestled down here?" Gordy asked. "Because he was scared of me, that's why. He knows who the real 'Bamm Bamm' is, and now he's finally going to get his butt kicked, the way he's deserved all along."



Bigelow comes out on top in this test of strength (top left). Gordy tries to stop Bigelow from climbing back into the ring (above). Since the match ended in a double-disqualification, their dispute is far from being settled.

Though Humperdink and Hayes feared for the safety of their respective friends, there was no way they could contain Bigelow and Gordy's enthusiasm for the Chicago bout—and for dealing a crushing beating to their respective opponents. And when match time came, both men backed up their words with bloody aggressiveness.

In the early going, tests of strengths proved inconclusive. Bigelow clamped on an iron-solid chinlock that had Gordy screaming in pain. Sweat dripped from the brows of both men as Gordy struggled to regain his freedom and Bigelow struggled to maintain the hold. It was a massive test of power and strength, a clear case of an irresistible force meeting an immovable object. Neither man gave an inch until Gordy, flailing away with his arms in a frantic search for escape, found Bigelow's face and savagely raked his eyes—effectively breaking the hold.

At times the match was so violent that the referee couldn't maintain control. The action frequently spilled out to the beer-soaked arena floor. Gordy, a veteran of underhanded grappling, dominated the outside-the-ring confrontations, but Bigelow—no stranger to violence—fought Gordy's onslaught with an uncommon determination. The only recourse for the referee was a double-disqualification, which hardly settled the Bamm Bamm vs. Bam Bam issue.

"Are you kidding? Of *course* it's settled," Bigelow said. "I kicked his sorry butt! I had him screaming for mercy."

Gordy saw the match from a slightly different perspective.

"He said he kicked my butt? Who's he trying to kid? Everybody who saw the match knows that I proved that I'm wrestling's only 'Bamm Bamm.' After this match, he might just as well go back to calling himself Crusher Yurkof!"

It may have been a one-night battle in Chicago, but both contestants indicate their desire to continue the war. It makes no sense. Then again, war seldom does. □

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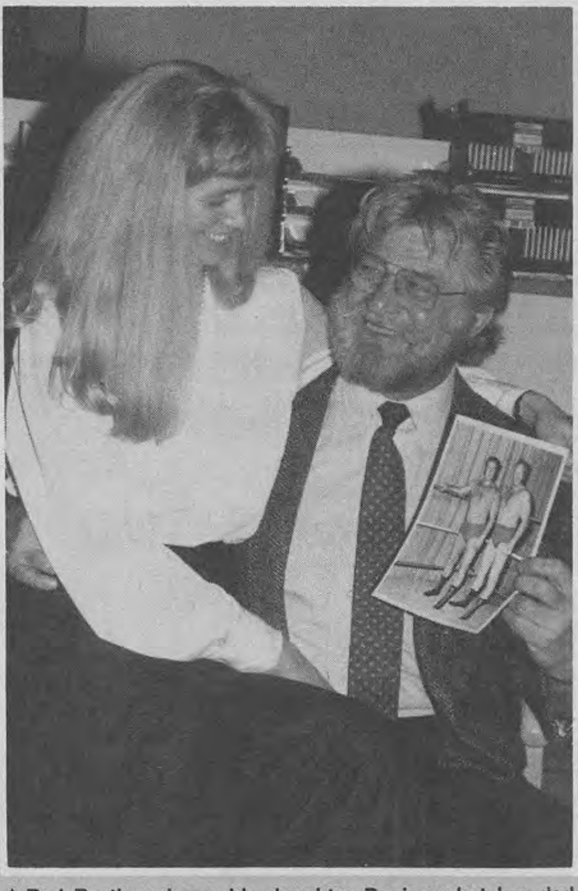
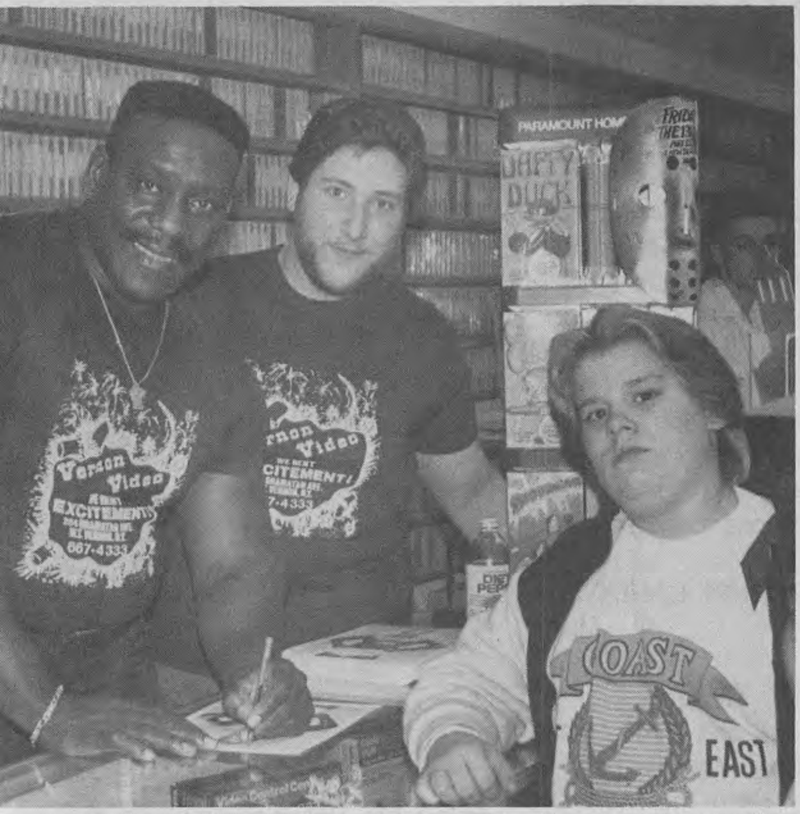
BEYOND THE SQUARED CIRCLE

▲ Artie Esposito and Allan Holman of *The Wrestler* mailing fulfillment staff are two of Missy Hyatt's biggest admirers.



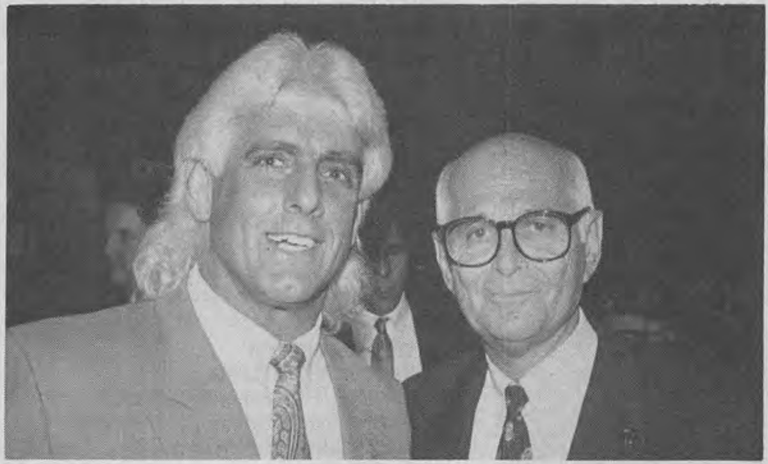
▲ Red Bastien shows his daughter Denise what her dad looked like 20 years ago as Billy Red Lyons' tag team partner.

▲ Precious checks out Jim Garvin's cast. Garvin can't wait to start wrestling again, especially now that his friend Eddie Gilbert has returned to the NWA to help him gain revenge.



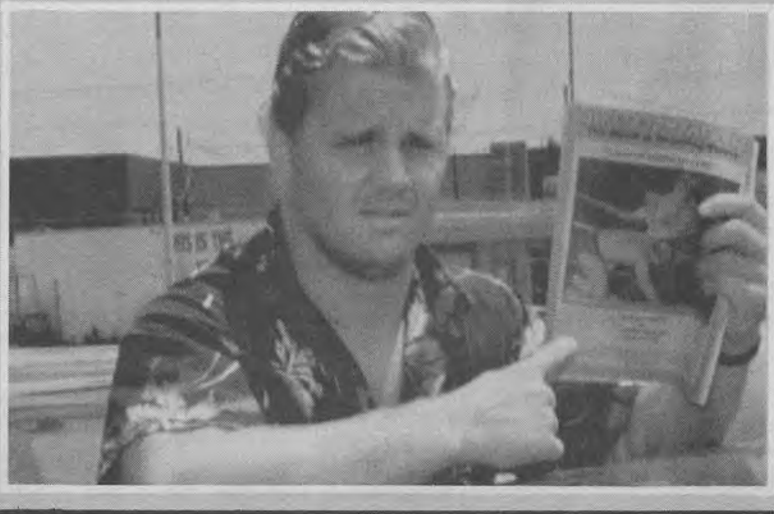
◄ S.D. Jones was the special guest at the grand opening of Vernon Video in Pelham, New York. With S.D. is the store's owner, Tony DellaMura, an aspiring wrestler.

▲ Jerry "The King" Lawler discusses match strategy with Fabulous Moolah, who could be considered the "Queen" of wrestling. Maybe Lawler wants some pointers on how to stay champion for so long; Moolah was on top for almost 30 years!



▲ Ric Flair meets TV producer Norman Lear at a charity function. Lear is perhaps best known for producing *All In The Family.*

▲ Regis Philbin, a big wrestling fan, clowns with WWF champ Randy Savage on the set of *The Regis Philbin Show.*



◄ Captured by reader Ian J. Schultz, "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig points out a feature on his father, Larry "The Ax," in our sister publication *Inside Wrestling.*

(Continued from page 7)

had some film footage to show the fans. All they showed was Sting being carried from the ring on a stretcher.

This does not sound like a major-league promotion to me. It seems like all they do is build up their program so fans will watch next week. The announcers know the events, but only tell the fans enough to whet their appetite.

I'm sure that I'm not the only one who feels this way. I hope more people write in, because the only way problems like this can be solved is if the fans speak out!

JAY DECHELLIS
Weymouth, MA

"THE KING" RULES!

I have to agree with Jon Latham who wrote the letter in your December 1988 issue called "Tunnel Vision." In it, he correctly asserted that Jerry Lawler should be ranked number one in your Top 10.

Lawler defends his AWA World title in other leagues; you don't see Ric Flair or Randy Savage doing that. Flair used to defend his title in other federations, but now he's just a federation man like Savage.

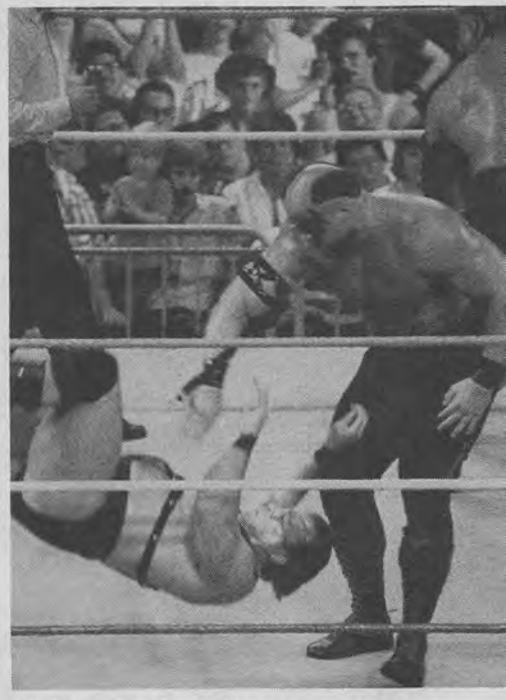
Lawler defends his title against the best wrestlers from other federations, not the same old boring stuff like Flair vs. Lex Luger or Savage vs. Ted DiBiase. "The King" should be ranked number one because he *is* number one.

ROBERT CASTANEDA
Miami

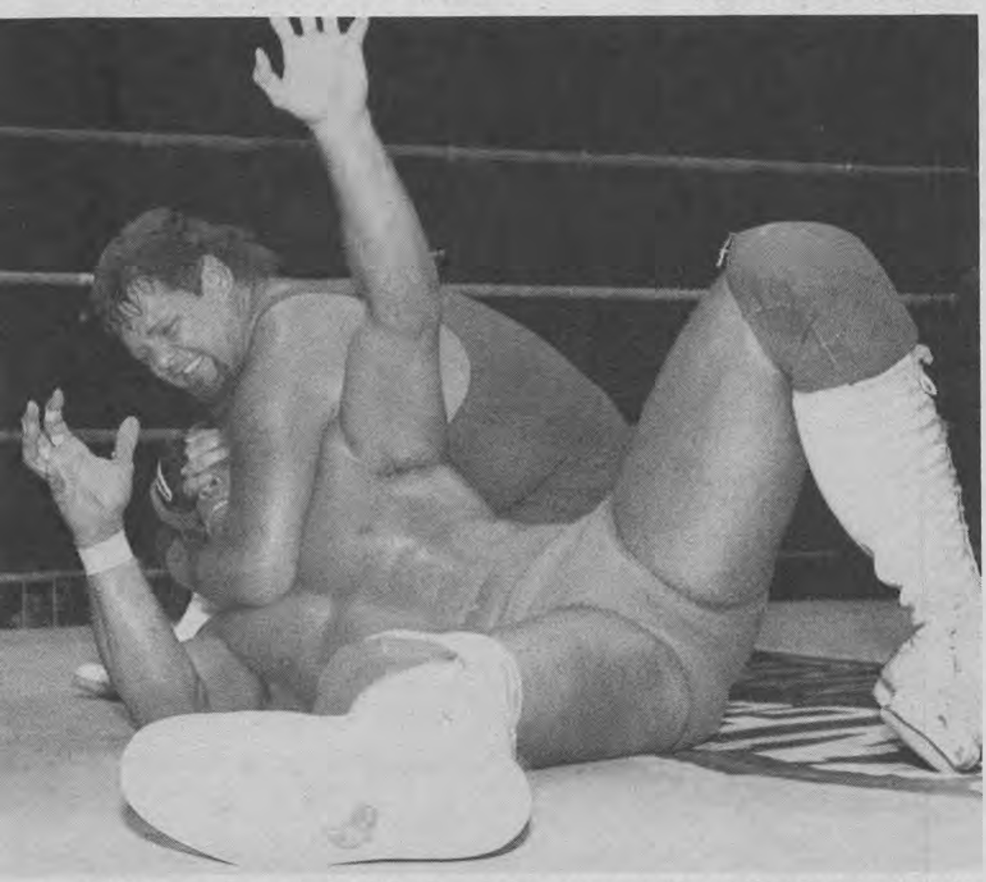
THE PAINFUL TRUTH

I'm getting sick and tired of hearing that The Road Warriors ran The Powers of Pain out of the NWA. Did it ever occur to anyone that The Powers of Pain simply made a very wise career move?

(Continued on page 46)



Warlord flips Demolition Ax to the mat. Reader Pete Carlucci believes that The Powers of Pain had good reasons for leaving the NWA.



AWA champ Jerry "The King" Lawler puts the sleeper on Kerry Von Erich. Because Lawler defends his World title in other areas—and Randy Savage and Ric Flair do not—Lawler should be rated number one, writes Robert Castaneda.

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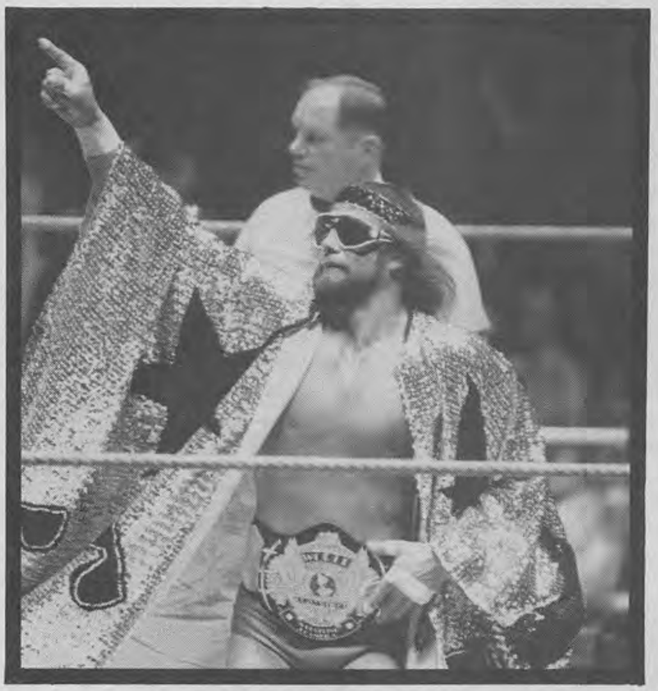

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All this and much more . . . in the February 1989 issue of *Inside Wrestling*

ON SALE NOW!

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 44)

Look at the facts: In the WWF, Warlord and Barbarian are receiving greater national exposure than they could ever have enjoyed in the NWA. They're also making more money, and they're the number-one contenders for the World title. All they had in the NWA was a seemingly endless feud with The Legion of Doom, which was engineered by their inept manager, Paul Jones.

Despite their vast abilities, Warlord and Barbarian were never placed in contention for either the U.S. or World tag team title. Thus, the Powers left an area, where their careers were stagnating, to go to the WWF, where they have already beaten Demolition in non-title bouts. They seem destined to capture the title soon.

Meanwhile, in the NWA, The Road Warriors continue to sink into obscurity.

PETE CARLUCCI
Charlotte, NC

Bobby Heenan's management has done nothing for Andre the Giant's career, writes Ken Dinkin, who thinks Heenan is not the "Brain" he claims to be.

RODRIGUEZ IS RIGHT

I am writing to compliment Andy Rodriguez and his December 1988 "Win, Lose, Or Draw" column. In it, Rodriguez discussed how Bobby Heenan wasted the phenomenal talents of The Islanders. Rodriguez is right: Heenan *did* let a pair of potential champions slip away. My point is that this is nothing new for Bobby "The Brain-less" Heenan.

Look at Heenan's list of clients: Rick Rude—He's doing nothing except feuding with Jake Roberts. Haku—He might be a king, but the only gold he has is on his head, not around his waist. Andre the Giant—Another example of waisted potential. Terry Taylor—Here's someone who may become great in the future (if he abandons Heenan, that is!).

Bobby Heenan is the worst manager in the WWF! Some brain!

KEN DINKIN
San Francisco□

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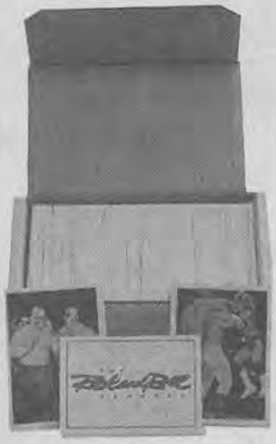

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January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

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MAY 1987

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

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December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

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January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

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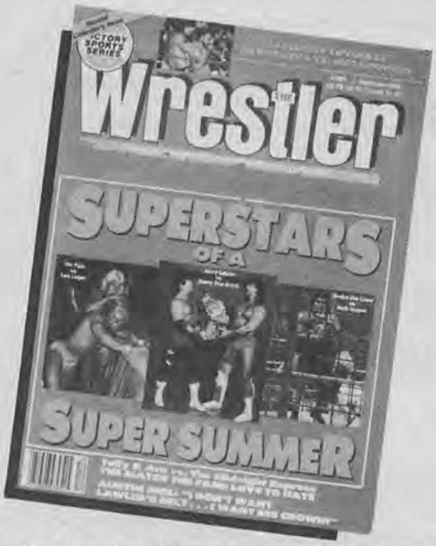

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

manager **Bobby Heenan** interfered. Andre has worked his way up to the top contender's spot in the WWF, passing **Ted DiBiase**, who failed in several title shots since March. Heenan was injured earlier in the evening during Hogan's victory over Haku. Hogan was on one knee near Heenan when "The Brain" ordered Haku to jump on "The Hulkster" from the ring apron. As Haku jumped, Hulk pushed Heenan into his path. Heenan was helped back to the dressing room.

Did you know that nine days earlier at the Baltimore Arena, **Rick Steiner** substituted for **Lex Luger** to wrestle NWA World champion—and fellow rulebreaker—**Ric Flair**? It happened, and the fans had no trouble cheering for Steiner, who defeated Flair by disqualification when **Barry Windham** interfered. Earlier in the evening, Steiner and **Kevin Sullivan** lost to **The Fantastics** by disqualification.

The Steiner-Flair match, when combined with **Steve Williams'** decision to accept an offer to join **The Varsity Club**, makes the current NWA situation quite intriguing. Sullivan and **Mike Rotundo** have belittled Steiner several times on TV, while Steiner insists that he can beat Rotundo, the NWA TV champion. Is there room for four in The Varsity Club, or is Steiner on the way out?

WWF announcer **Mean Gene Okerlund** and boxer **Sugar Ray Leonard** were scheduled to co-host the November 4 edition of NBC's *Friday Night Videos* . . . Central States officials have decided to recognize all AWA championships . . . **The Samoan Swat Team** regained the World Class tag belts from **Steve Cox** and **Michael Hayes**. The SST, managed by **Buddy Roberts**, also holds the Texas tag title . . . Florida Championship Wrestling tag champs **Johnny Ace** and **The Terminator** have hired **Dick Slater** to get rid of 6'9" **U.S. Steel**.

When **Tatsumi Fujinami** won the Pacific Northwest title from **The Grappler** on October 15 in Portland, Oregon, a series of rematches was expected. But Fujinami returned to Japan, where he is the IWGP champion. So The Grappler

After The Grappler lost his Pacific Northwest title to Tatsumi Fujinami, he followed Fujinami to Japan.

has decided to go after Fujinami in Japan! Fujinami, by the way, lost by disqualification to AWA World champion **Jerry Lawler** during his United States tour.

Speaking of Lawler, his victory over **Kerry Von Erich** for the World Class belt on October 23 in Memphis changes the status of their December 13 match at SuperClash III in Chicago. It was scheduled to be a title unification match, but the AWA and World Class belts have already been unified by Lawler!

Gary Young and **Cactus Jack** are the new CWA tag team champions by virtue of their victory in a one-night tournament in Memphis. The tournament was ordered when **The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs** were stripped of the belts after a controversial double-pin against **Todd Morton** and **Bill Dundee** in Lewisberg, Tennessee. Both teams had one man pinned.

As it turned out, Morton and Dundee eliminated the RPMs in the first round. Dundee and Morton, however, reached the finals

following their disqualification victory in the second round over **Don Bass** and **Phil Hickerson**. Young and Cactus Jack reached the finals through victories over **Brian Lee** and **Scott Steiner** in round one and **Nature's Best** in round two.

In the final, Young and Cactus Jack upset Dundee and Morton, setting off a wild victory celebration in the dressing room. "You know, a few months ago nobody knew who I was, but now everybody knows that Cactus Jack is a champion," said Jack.

According to reliable sources, **Rick Martel** might be ready to come off the disabled list. Martel has been out of action since he was injured during an outside-the-ring attack by **Demolition** . . . **Blue Blazer** made his Madison Square Garden debut on October 24 and defeated **Steve Lombardi** with a backward flip . . . **Harley Race** was scheduled to return to the WWF in October but failed to appear for several cards; **Bulldog Bob Brown** has been taking his place.

When Harley Race did not make his scheduled return to the WWF, Bulldog Bob Brown took his place at several shows.

Tragedy struck wrestling once again on October 16 when **Tom Thumb**, a midget star from 1978 to 1983, died in an automobile accident near Libau, Manitoba. His car skidded and went off Devil's Creek Bridge at 12:20 a.m. during a heavy rainstorm. Thumb, also known as **Tiny Tom**, had recently celebrated his 27th birthday.

That's what's happening. See you at the matches! □

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MADUSA MICELI

(Continued from page 31)

going to change that perception very much.

"Everybody only sees the body, the face, the hair," she complained. "Nobody looks at my accomplishments. I'm the greatest female athlete to hit wrestling in this decade, but whenever I hear my name mentioned, all I hear are wolf whistles and sexist comments. Well, I'm going to change that. I'm going to be the most famous woman champion ever, and I'll do it by beating the best."

It *is* true that when most wrestling fans think of Miceli, they picture a beautiful woman. But serious fans know Miceli is also a dedicated athlete who commits hours of training for each one of her title defenses. On December 27, success of those defenses willing, she'll celebrate her first anniversary as AWA women's champion, a record that makes many of the top contenders blush with envy.

During the summer, Miceli became obsessed with increasing her reputation as an athlete. She had done exceptionally well in the first half of 1988, defeating quality opponents like Brandi Mae, Lori Lynn, Heidi Lee Morgan, and former Australian champion Susan Sexton. But Miceli wanted new opponents. After a meeting with AWA President Stanley Blackburn in early September, she got what she wanted—and perhaps a bit more than she bargained for.

"Madusa wants tougher competition?" asked Blackburn. "Well, we're going to give her what she's asked for. We've contacted former WWF champions Wendi Richter and Fabulous Moolah, and both have agreed to meet Miceli for title bouts. These will surely be the toughest tests of Madusa's title reign."

"For once in his life, Blackburn is right," said an ecstatic Miceli after the announcement. "This *is* everything I've ever wanted. Now, *everybody's* gonna see who the *real* champion of women's wrestling really is."

Remarkably, Miceli has made good on her threats. She gained countout and disqualification victories over both Richter and Moolah in early autumn. Even these challengers were impressed with Madusa's ring skills.

Miceli clamps down on Fabulous Moolah, who is generally recognized as the greatest woman wrestler of all time. Madusa wants to make everyone forget about Moolah by convincingly defeating the legendary champion.

"She's quite a competitor," remarked Moolah, the two-time WWF women's champion for a total of nearly three full decades. "This is one lady who knows she's a champion and

won't let anyone take that belt away from her without a fight. She's got guts, too, and more ring smarts than she gets credit for. She's not afraid to break the rules to win."

Richter was a bit less enthusiastic. "You call *that* a victory?" she said after losing a disqualification decision in Tennessee. "The referee missed Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond interfering for her! There's no *way* Madusa could ever defeat me in a fair fight—*ever*."

Miceli didn't seem to care about her opponents' comments.

"I beat Moolah and I beat Richter," laughed Miceli. "These are two of the greatest women wrestlers ever—legends—and I beat 'em both. So who's the legend now?"

•

Finally free from the photo session, Miceli ran across Park Avenue. Late for the airport and her flight to Minneapolis, she managed to hail a cab quickly; then again, blondes draped in furs usually don't have to wait long for cabs in New York.

After a few minutes of eyeballing Miceli in the back of his car, the cab driver could not keep silent any longer.

"I know I've seen you before," he said. "Were you ever in **Playboy?** *Maybe you won a beauty pageant or something. I know you from somewhere."*

Miceli remained silent until the cab pulled into LaGuardia Airport. After receiving his fare, the cab driver made one last attempt at conversation.

"C'mon, aren't you gonna tell me who you are?" he pleaded.

"Remember this day," said Miceli intently. "Someday, you can tell your grandkids that you once met Madusa Miceli, the greatest female wrestler of all time."

Miceli slung her overnight bag over her shoulder and briskly walked away. The cabbie stared at Miceli as she walked through the airport entrance. A new fare entered from the opposite side.

"Say, wasn't that Madusa Miceli?" asked the passenger. "Wow! She's the champ, you know."

"She sure is," the cabbie said wistfully. "She really is." ☐

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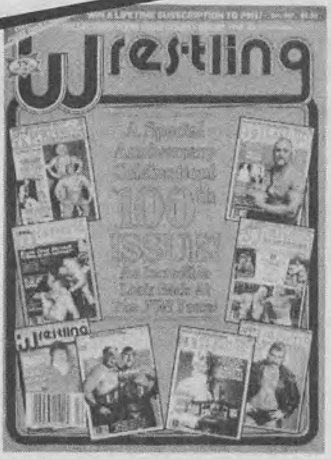

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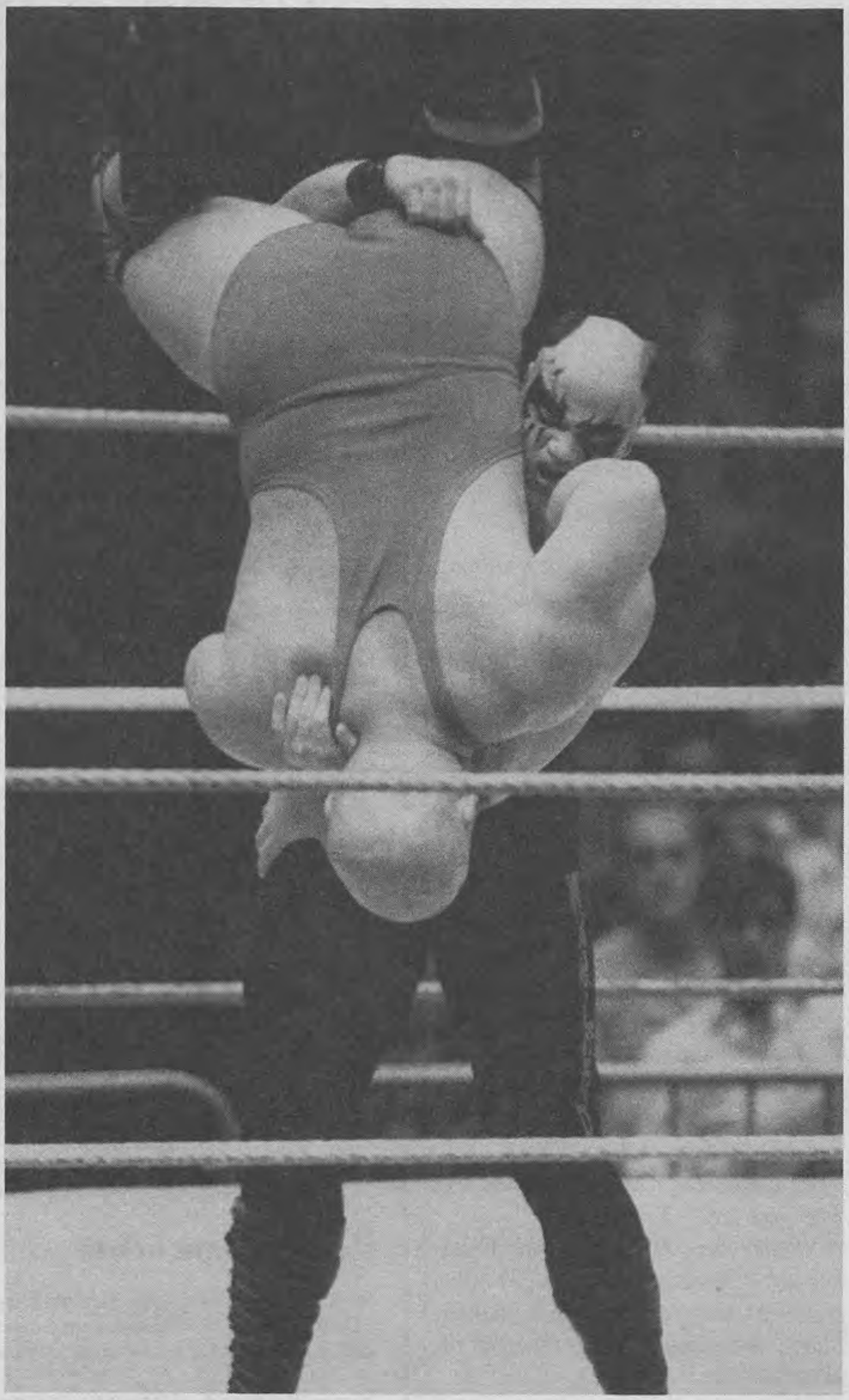
WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW

(Continued from page 10)



Warlord slams Zukhov. Jones claims to have molded Warlord into a top wrestler. Andy Rodriguez had an interesting and bizarre conversation with Paul Jones' secretary, who finds herself at the mercy of a demanding boss.

carried away, but I don't like what Paul is doing. It's ridiculous to make believe that the Powers never existed."

"I must also apologize. Of course I know who Warlord and Barbarian are, but Mr. Jones can be so strict with us sometimes. Do you know he once forced me to watch one match 16 times in one day? He was trying to teach me how to analyze a match. He wanted me to learn so he'd have more free time for himself."

"Very interesting."

"He's a strange man, Mr. Rodriguez, I'll tell you."

"Why do you still work for him?"

"I need the money."

"Don't we all."

"Do you need a secretary?"

"I'm sorry, we're filled."

"I can type 90 words a minute."

"I'm sorry."

"I take dictation."

"There's no room for another desk."

"Oh, too bad. I wouldn't want to relocate anyway."

"Of course not."

"Mr. Jones can be very nice sometimes. We had a birthday party for one of the girls last week and he sent over three pizza pies and a huge ice cream cake. There's a good side to him."

"I won't deny that. I've spoken with Paul dozens of times and he's usually fair with me, as fair as a manager can be to a reporter. But when he wants to hide something from you, forget it."

"Still and all, I think Mr. Jones will go down as one of the greatest managers in wrestling history. Don't you agree?"

"It depends on your definition of 'great.'"

"I suppose. Anyway, it's been quite an experience working for Paul. I don't think I'll ever have a more exciting or challenging job."

"Consider yourself lucky. A lot of people work the same boring jobs all their lives."

"Don't tell me. My grandpa worked at the same factory for 57 years. Can you imagine?"

"Nope. Listen, I have to get going. My story is due in half an hour."

"Sorry I can't help you, but I will tell Mr. Jones that you called."

"No, don't bother. I'll try calling Warlord and Barbarian."

"You mean The Powers of Pain." ☐

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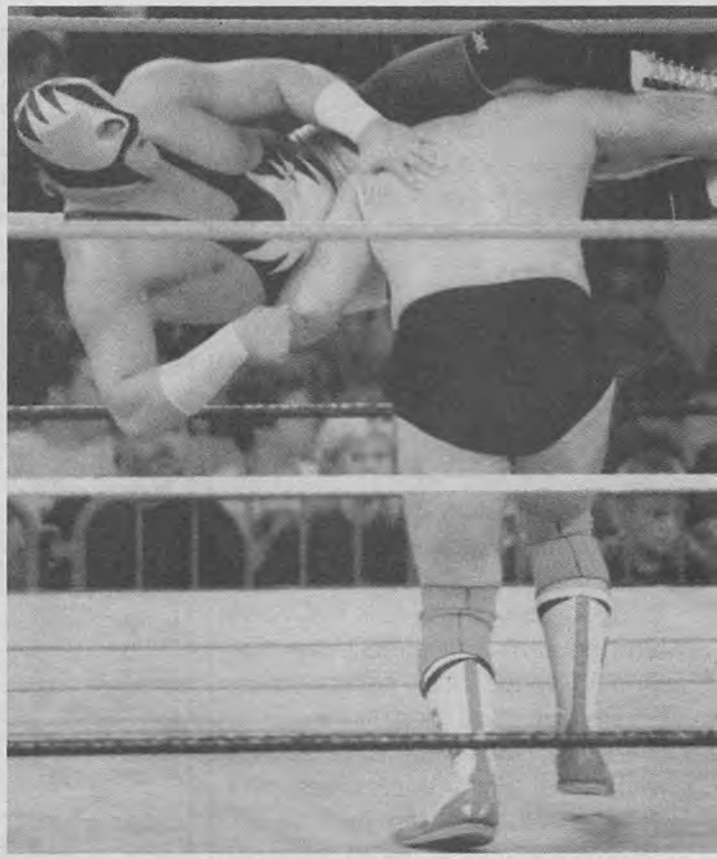
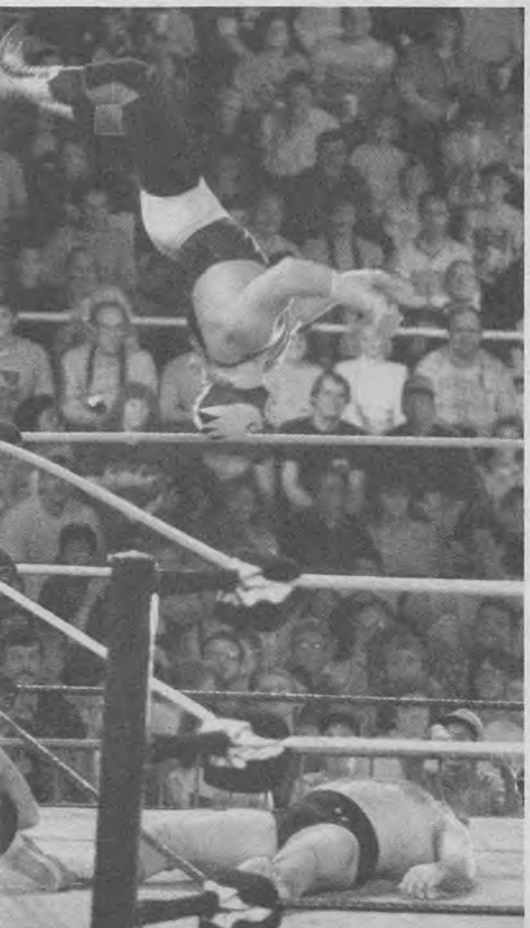
BLUE BLAZER

(Continued from page 33)





Blazer hiptosses Barry Horowitz (above left). His tremendous athletic ability is evident as he executes a headscissors on Gene Ligon (above right) and freezes Ligon with a dramatic flip off the top rope (left).

begin to compare him with is Mil Mascaras. I remember how we all had the same feeling when Mil came along."

American fans may recall when Mascaras, a native of Mexico, made his Madison Square Garden debut on December 18, 1972—a notable date, for until that time, masked wrestlers had been banned from competition in New York State. Before Mil's arrival on the U.S. scene, aerial maneuvers were rarely utilized; in some states, it was illegal to jump off the top rope! Mascaras changed all that in a hurry.

"Mil taught us all how effective an aerial attack can be," said Paul Boesch, longtime promoter and NWA official. "Fans as well as wrestlers took to his unique style immediately. As a promoter, I can tell you that a card featuring Mascaras was a sure-fire moneymaker."

During the 1970s and early '80s, Mascaras was a mainstay in U.S. rings, winning many regional titles and coming close to a world title on several occasions. But it was the *way* he wrestled, not the number of belts he won, that is remembered by most of us. A punster might say he was one in a *Million*."

If that's the case, The Blue Blazer may be number two in a million. A new generation of fans now has their own Mascaras.

"He's great!" screamed 10-year-old Kevin Gems. "He's gonna be the greatest wrestler ever, even better than Sting. I've read about Mil Mascaras, but I haven't seen him. I can't believe he was as good as Blazer is. No way!"

Jimmy Snuka, a man known for his brilliant aerial game, praises the Blazer, but tempers his kudos with a warning.

"I would like to advise the brother that he should be very careful in watching for injuries," Snuka cautions. "All that jumping around will take its toll on a body. It is good to see a wrestler who is not afraid to fly, but

remember, brother, the higher you fly, the harder you crash."

That may be true, but from all reports the Blazer is a young man capable of absorbing tremendous amounts of punishment.

"I've seen his workouts," said one trainer. "You really don't have to worry about him getting hurt. He's very safety conscious. When you see him wrestle, it looks like he's taking a lot of chances, but he knows what he's doing. He's one of the most careful wrestlers I know."

As might be expected, the Blazer's greatest supporter is Mascaras himself. The legendary Mexican, currently wrestling in his homeland, is pleased that his style lives on so dramatically.

"Blue Blazer is a fantastic talent," Mascaras told *The Wrestler*. "He does some moves that even I never would have tried. He has been blessed with a great fighting spirit. I think he is sure to win a world championship in the next few years."

Mascaras says he is not jealous of Blazer's success. "No, that is ridiculous. I wish him good luck. There is plenty of room for many wrestlers with our style. Of course I would not want the fans to forget me, but I don't want to take all the credit for the acrobats."

It is that selfless attitude that adds to the Mascaras legend. In the ring, the Blazer may be a match for Mascaras, but Blazer does not match Mascaras' reputation as a worldwide wrestling ambassador known for his good deeds outside the ring. But it is far too early to hold Blazer up to such a high standard.

"The first thing he has to do is establish himself as a *wrestler,* and he's doing that well," Apter says. "When you say Blazer is a 'Mil Mascaras of the '90s,' you're talking about his wrestling alone. We don't know enough about him to judge him as a person, although he does seem to believe in the ideals of fair play that Mil works so hard to uphold."

Blue Blazer still wears the flashy costume to the ring, but the flashiness of his style overwhelms his ring attire. Even his enemies will admit that. ☐

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FALL 1988

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SUMMER 1984/Color pinups: Patera-Gagne, Windham-Bart, Bundy-Garvin, Koloff-Mosca. **Stories include:** Junkyard Dog, Flair-Race, Adams-Garvin, Snuka, Idol, Orndorff.

FALL 1984/Color pinups: Haynes-Nagasaki, Kabuki-Kamala, Steamboat-Slater, Blanchard-Colon. **Stories include:** Hogan, David Von Erich, Flair-Brody, Blanchard.

WINTER 1984/Color pinups: Michael Hayes, Flair-McDaniel, Gilbert-Rich, Haynes-Funk. **Stories include:** Kerry Von Erich, Martel-Bockwinkel, Piper, Flair-Steamboat.

SPRING 1985/Color pinups: Animal-Funk, Poffo-Gilbert, Nikita-Fernandez, Garvin-McDaniel. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan, Albano, Rhodes, Sullivan.

SUMMER 1985/Color pinups: Kerry-Flair, Hawk-Lawler, Funk-Slater, Nikita-Rhodes. **Stories include:** Valentine, Windham & Rotundo, Warriors, Flair-Race, Nikita.

FALL 1985/Color pinups: Adams-Kevin Von Erich, Zbyszko-Backlund, Lawler-Brody, Blanchard-T.A. **Stories include:** Von Erichs, Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Freebirds.

WINTER 1985/Color pinups: Flair-Kevin Von Erich, Hayes-Hawk, Hogan-Fujinami, DiBiase-Roberts. **Stories include:** Orndorff, Warriors, Brody, Shultz, Duggan.

SPRING 1986/Color pinups: Windham-Sullivan, Andre-Bundy, Taylor-Landell, Hernandez-Kerry. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Warriors, Hogan, Santana, Rude, Williams.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinups: Luger-Barr, Garvin-Flair, Nord-Hawk, Missy-Sunshine. **Stories include:** Warriors-Russians, Savage-Hogan, Kevin Von Erich, Bulldogs.

FALL 1986/Color pinups: Kirchner-Volkoff, Nikita-Hawk, Morton-Flair, Nord-Hennig. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Luger, Savage, Bulldogs, Hansen, Rude, Williams.

WINTER 1986/Color pinups: Rude-Von Erich, Khrushchev-Mantel, Hogan-Adonis, Bockwinkel-DeBeers. **Stories include:** Supercards, Hogan, Horsemen, Snuka, Von Erich.

SPRING 1987/Color pinups: Steamboat-Zulu, Roberts-Hillbilly, Morton-Anderson, DiBiase-Hayes. **Stories include:** Bigelow, Flair, Hogan, Luger, Race, Windham, Hyatt.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinups: Roberts-Kamala, Von Erich-Perez, Morton-Koloff, Snuka-Zukhov. **Stories include:** Windham, Elizabeth, Superpowers, Albano, Von Erich.

FALL 1987/Color pinups: Animal-Lane, Bigelow-Inoki, Sullivan-Hall, Ware-Honky Tonk. **Stories include:** Midnights, Flair, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Piper, Hogan-Andre.

WINTER 1987/Color pinups: Tama-Santana, Perez-Steamboat, Rhodes-Flair, Gordy-Gilbert. **Stories include:** Luger-Nikita, Express, Hart, Hogan, Hyatt, Lawler.

SPRING 1988/Color pinups: Jason-Hart, Konga-Sting, OMG-Santana, Von Erich-Adias. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan-Andre, DiBiase, Honky Tonk, T.A., War Games.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinups: Von Erich-Roberts, Sting-Rotundo, Misty-Dallas, Reed-Muraco. **Stories include:** Luger, Hogan, Cornette, Hennig, Bigelow, Hyatt, Rude.

FALL 1988/Color pinups: Santana-Smash, Warlord-Hawk, Adams-Taylor, Hennig-Lawler. **Stories include:** Luger, Hogan, DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting, Savage.

WINTER 1988/Color pinups: Kerry, Hayes, OMG, Sting, Luger, Idol, Ultimate, Brody. **Stories include:** Sting, Hyatt, Dusty, Roberts, Ultimate, Powers of Pain.

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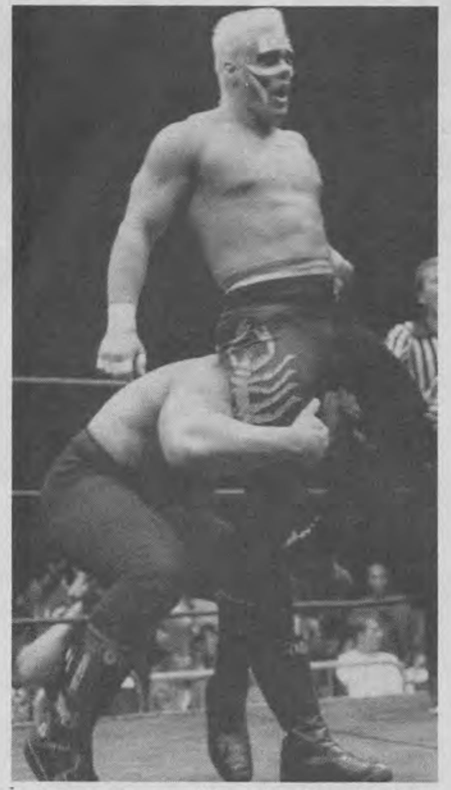
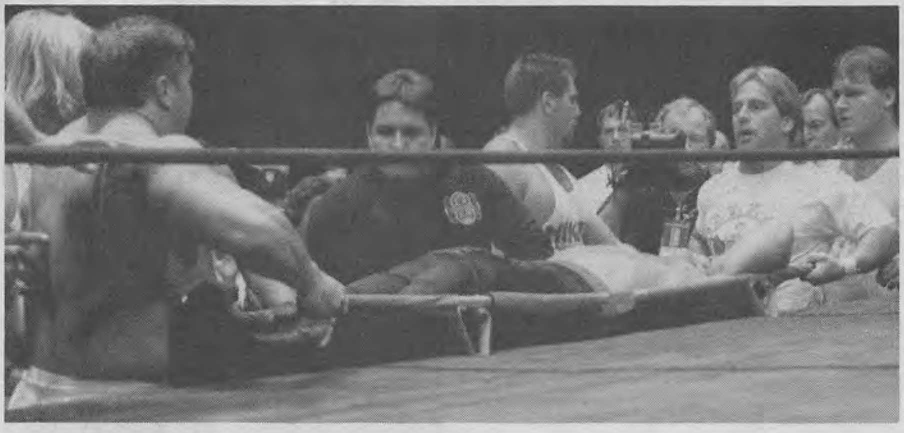
ROAD WARRIORS

(Continued from page 35)



Animal sets up Sting for Hawk's flying clothesline (above). Sting's friends carry him off on a stretcher (top right).



The Warriors were once frequent partners with Dusty Rhodes (above); they held the NWA six-man title for a time. When Animal was hurt, Dusty was there (below).

imagine with revulsion what Animal and Hawk would have done to *them.*

So, NWA World tag champs The Midnight Express, along with Sting and Rhodes—and yes, even the fans!—are left behind to feel the Warriors' wrath. This is evil unleashed as never before.

"They're out of control, and I'm not about to stop them," said manager Paul Ellering, who seems to have engineered the Warriors' change of heart. "They're unbeatable when they're like this, which is just the way I want them."

Even Sting admits that the Warriors are capable of causing more damage than any other duo in the world.

"Just take a look at them," Sting said, showing obvious deference to these 567-pound muscle machines. "The great thing about Animal and Hawk is that they've always been able to harness their power so effectively. But now, they just don't seem to care. They're all-out all the way, and that can be dangerous. Believe me, I know."

Sting, of course, was the man attacked by the Warriors when they made their stunning change. He had substituted for Dusty Rhodes in a six-man tag team match against The Varsity Club, and appeared to be on the verge of winning the match for his team. But Animal and Hawk took exception to Sting "stealing their thunder" and attacked him from all sides. Sting suffered a serious neck sprain, although he wasn't expected to miss any bouts.

Rhodes missed the match because of prior obligations at a Special Olympics fundraiser, but the Warriors certainly weren't feeling charitable toward "The American Dream."

"I don't care *where* he was, he belonged in the *ring,*" said Hawk, sounding very much like Tully Blanchard after Ole Anderson missed a Four Horsemen match because of family obligations two years ago. "If that fat slob's gonna just walk out on us, he'd better be prepared to pay the price."

It is generally believed that the Warriors didn't become frustrated all at once. On the contrary, several events over the past 18 months led to their inevitable change:

- A lack of title shots, first when Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson were champs, and later when The Midnight Express won the belts. The Warriors couldn't understand why they weren't regularly scheduled against these rulebreaker teams.
- A lower-than-expected seeding in the 1987 and 1988 Crockett Cup tag team tournaments. "We won the damn thing in 1986, but they didn't make us the number-one seed in 1987," Ellering said. *"You* tell *me* why that is."
- The low profile that the six-man tag belts were given by NWA promoters. "I don't understand why so little attention was paid to the only title my men had," Ellering said. "You start to get the feeling the NWA is anti-Warrior."

The Warriors were also disturbed that nobody came to their assistance when The Powers of Pain and Ivan Koloff seriously injured Animal's eye last January. "We're always there for everybody else, but nobody was around when *we* needed some help," Animal said. "That's why they can all go to hell. It's obvious that the only people I can depend on are Hawk and Paul, so they're the only people I'm counting on from now on. If somebody wants to root for us, they can go right ahead, but we don't care. Sting, Rhodes, Lex Luger, Steve Williams—they're *all* a bunch of losers, and the Warriors don't hang out with losers anymore.

"We're winners. And we don't care who we have to cripple or destroy in order to prove it." □

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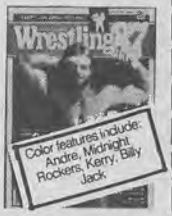

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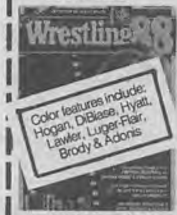

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(Continued from page 20)

"People in the AWA treat me like I'm a rookie, but I've already competed in hundreds of matches," said Mimi. "I bided my time before coming to a major federation, but I've already been a professional for three years. I'm *certainly* no novice, and I think I prove it each time I get into the ring."

Mimi credits her instructors for her wealth of scientific skills. "I trained and worked out with Los Angeles promoter Gene LeBell when I first started. I became interested in wrestling as a fan during my teen years, and I always attended matches at the old Olympic Auditorium right near my home. I met some wrestlers who introduced me to Mr. LeBell, and I told them that I wanted to wrestle. After that, I worked out like a demon for years. It was tough, but it was worth it. It all got me where I am today."

After five years of amateur wrestling and gymnastics training, Mimi had her first pro match in August 1986 against a masked wrestler called The Lace—right in her own hometown of Los Angeles.

"I was so proud that day," Mimi recalled. "To be able to win my first pro match, in front of my family and friends—in less than four minutes!—was a dream come true. It's been onward and upward ever since."

Mimi armdrags Madusa. Mimi has often complained that the AWA is not granting her enough matches with Miceli, but that situation seems to be reversing.

After compiling an enviable record in Germany, Holland, and England for most of the past two years, Mimi began to notice that Miceli had cut back on her schedule of title defenses. She contacted Gagne about joining the federation in the spring, and made her AWA debut this past April.

Mimi (flipping Miceli to the mat) has actually been wrestling for several years. She has trained with past champions Billy Robinson and Gene LeBell.

"I didn't rush right in, though," said Mimi. "I was determined to prove that I'm as good as any female wrestler in the world, so Gagne set me up with Billy Robinson, the former British Empire champion, for an advanced training regimen. I worked with Billy for three months, six days a week, eight hours a day, before I made my AWA debut. I think the results speak for themselves."

Those results were so conclusive that Miceli has spent most of the last six months ducking Mimi's challenge, claiming that the newcomer has to prove herself before she gets a title match. Mimi obviously thinks otherwise.

"Hey, I'm only 24, but I can't wait for a title match *forever*," said an enraged Mimi. "It's been a little frustrating, but with more victories under my belt, they'll *have* to give me more title shots. I can beat Madusa. All I need is the chance."

"She'll get that chance," enthused Gagne. "The fans want to see Mimi in action, and Madusa can't hold out much longer. There's no doubt in my mind that she's the next champion. With all that beauty and talent? I'd be *crazy* to bet against a package like that!" □

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February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
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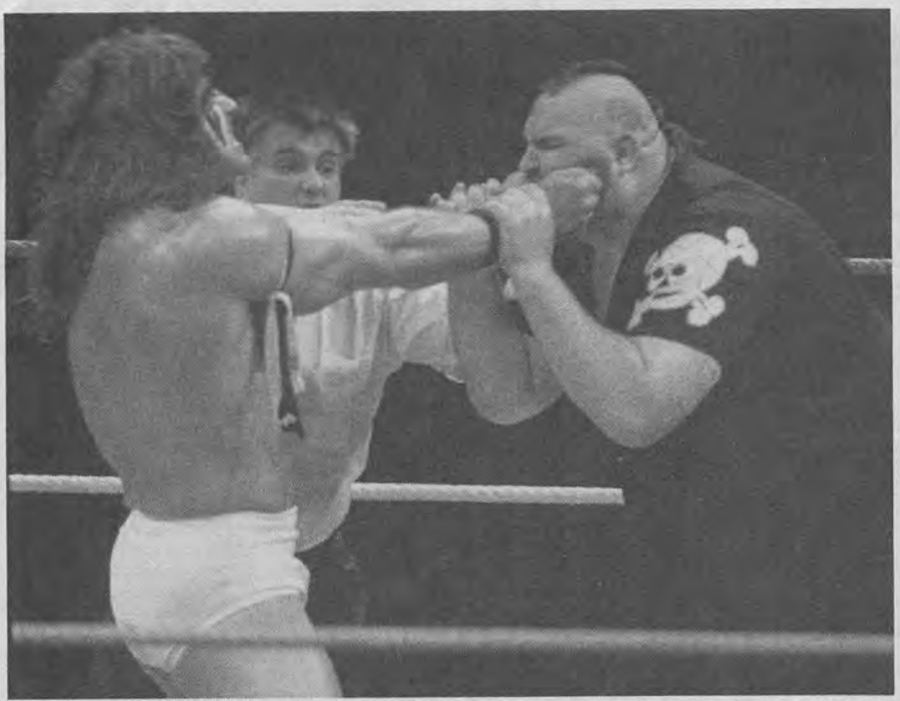
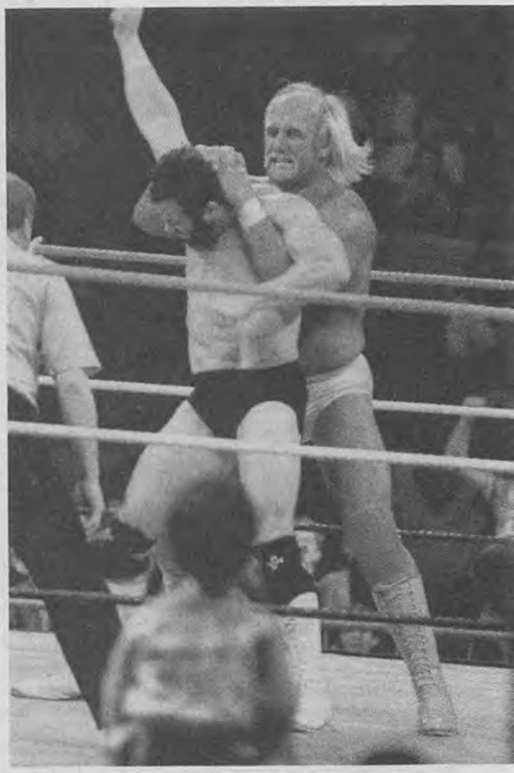
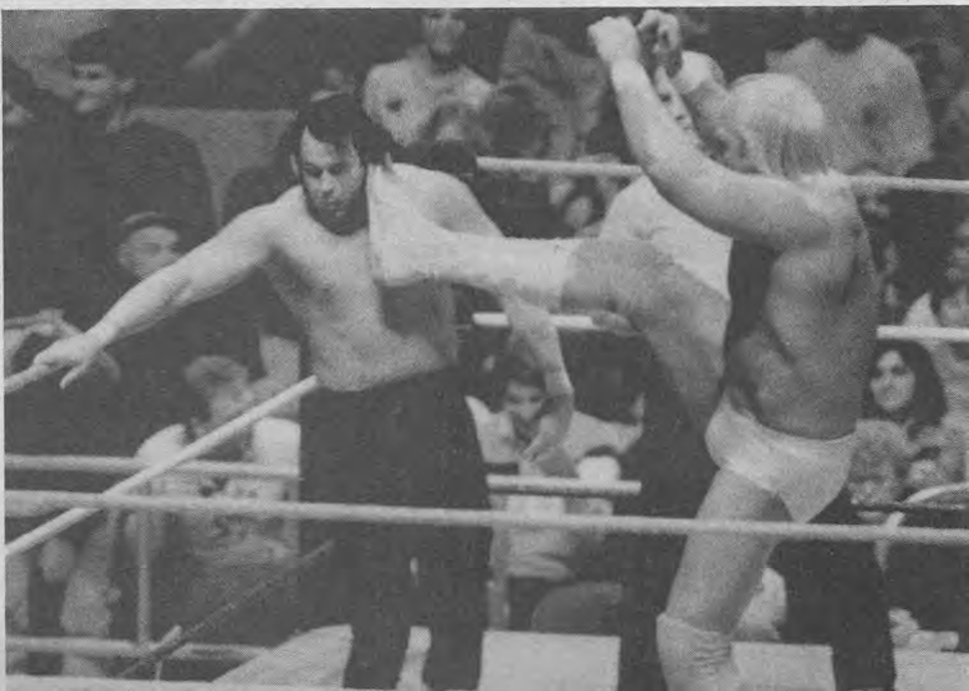
WARRIOR VS. HOGAN

(Continued from page 37)



The Warrior pulls One Man Gang's beard (above). Hogan puts the full-nelson on Hercules (right) and boots The Honky Tonk Man in the face (bottom). A feud between Warrior and Hogan would match raw power against raw power.





would be enough sport for any wrestling fan.

Such a match is a possibility because Hogan and Ultimate Warrior have yet to form a friendship. In fact, the Warrior has been mostly on his own since arriving in the WWF, using only the cheers of the fans to stir his already overactive adrenal gland. When he beat Honky Tonk for the I-C belt, nobody ran into the ring to congratulate him. And while several managers would love to manage him, Warrior has steadfastly insisted on going it alone.

Hogan, on the other hand, has aligned himself only with Randy Savage and Elizabeth over the past few years. There's little doubt that he wouldn't hesitate to take on the Warrior. In fact, many observers think he wouldn't hesitate to wrestle Savage. But that's not going to happen. Not yet, anyway.

A Hogan-Warrior battle would be intriguing to fans, promoters, and the wrestlers themselves for several important reasons, but mostly because of the similarities between the two men. Hogan and the Warrior are:

- Extremely muscular, although Hogan is a little larger.
- Outstanding brawlers who love to storm their opponents.
- Limited scientifically; both men try to avoid scientific challengers.
- Incredibly popular; Hogan still has the edge on popularity, but as the Warrior's title reign goes on, he's moved up in the "Most Popular" ratings.

In addition, neither man's stamina has ever been tested. It is suspected that the Warrior would have trouble in a long match, partly because he expends so much energy trying to beat an opponent quickly, but mainly because of his poor aerobic fitness. Hogan, too, tries to wipe out an opponent quickly and is far too bulky to last

in a long match. A Hogan-Warrior match would probably last over 20 minutes, however, because their strengths would neutralize each other.

Who would survive?

More to the point, who would you root for?

"Hogan, no doubt," answered 15-year-old Matthew Franklin of Boston. "In my book, Hogan is number one and everybody else is below him. I like The Ultimate Warrior a lot, but Hulk is something special. Besides, Hulk's always been so close to his fans and Ultimate never talks to us at all. I'm not even so sure he *cares* about us."

"My heart would be right behind The Ultimate Warrior," said 17-year-old Cathy Jenkins of New York City. "Let's face it, he's the best looking man in wrestling. Those muscles, that body, and that face! I just love his eyes! I'm so mesmerized by him. I usually don't get to see most of his matches, I'm so busy staring at his body!"

Undoubtedly, this is the match you've been waiting for. In fact, in an informal poll of WWF fans conducted by *The Wrestler,* Warrior-Hogan placed second—only behind Savage-Hogan—as the WWF match you'd most like to see. Interestingly, a Warrior-Hogan match could be more intriguing, because it would give Hogan the chance to become only the third man in history to win both the WWF Intercontinental and World titles. That would put him alongside Pedro Morales . . . and Randy Savage.

There's so much to look forward to! The anticipation of this outstanding match will be equaled only by the battle itself!

Because when Hulk Hogan and The Ultimate Warrior go to war—and they will—it will be raw muscle vs. raw muscle. It will be the two most powerful men in the WWF tearing each other apart.

And it will be unforgettable. □

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SUMMER 1986

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FALL 1985/Color pinup: Steve Keirn & Stan Lane. **Stories include:** Albano & Hogan, DiBiase, Warriors, Garvin.

WINTER 1985/Color pinup: Barry Windham. **Stories include:** Hogan, Zbyszko, Kerry, R&R Express, Steamboat, Thesz.

SPRING 1986/Color pinup: The Road Warriors. **Stories include:** Martel, Savage vs. Poffo, Hogan, Santana, Steamboat.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinup: Rock 'n' Roll Express & Magnum T.A. **Stories include:** Flair, Warriors, JYD, Magnum, Williams.

FALL 1986/Color pinup: Randy Savage. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Missy, Roberts, Windham. Luger, Rhodes.

WINTER 1986/Color pinup: Hulk Hogan. **Stories include:** Flair, Freebirds, Hogan, Andre, Watts, Haynes, Fantastics.

SPRING 1987/Color pinup: The Four Horsemen. **Stories include:** Ventura, T.A., Bulldogs, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinup: Road Warriors workout. **Stories include:** Hogan-Andre, Rockers, Koloff, Warriors, Hall-Luger.

FALL 1987/Color pinup: Dark Journey. **Stories include:** Albano, Hogan, T.A., Lane, Hyatt, Hennig, Luger.

WINTER 1987/Color pinup: Jesse Ventura. **Stories include:** Kerry, Rhodes, Hogan, Flair, Honky Tonk, DiBiase.

SPRING 1988/Color pinup: Elizabeth. **Stories include:** Hennig, Koloff, Savage, Strike Force, Warriors, Andre-Hogan.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinup: Missy Hyatt. **Stories include:** Rock 'n' Roll Express, Hogan, Sting, Luger, Owen Hart, Animal.

FALL 1988/Color pinup: Madusa Miceli. **Stories include:** Savage, Hyatt, Von Erich, Triple Dome, Demolition, Steamboat, Heenan, Lawler.

WINTER 1988/Color pinup: Randy Savage. **Stories include:** DiBiase, Flair, Duggan, Sting, Piper, Luger, Brody.

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(Continued from page 16)

Biase sneaked up on him from behind. But Virgil accidentally hit DiBiase, allowing Savage to roll up the "Million-Dollar Man" for the pin.

In other bouts: Jake Roberts beat Rick Rude by countout . . . King Haku pinned Steven Petitpas . . . Jacques & Raymond Rougeau pinned The Hart Foundation . . . Ron Bass pinned Lanny Poffo . . . The Powers of Pain demolished The Bolsheviks . . . The Blue Blazer pinned Barry Horowitz.

Atlanta, GA ***(Correspondent—Steve Hendrix):*** When NWA World champion Ric Flair squared off against Lex Luger at The Omni, former football great John Ayres served as special referee to neutralize Flair's advantage of having his fellow Horsemen around the ring.

The challenger easily outmuscled the champion in the early going, so Flair had to resort to his ring savvy to save him from quick defeat. Luger countered Flair's underhanded tactics with surprising scientific skills and easily maneuvered the champion into a figure-four leglock. Ric looked beaten, but J.J. Dillon managed to distract Ayres long enough for Flair to rake Luger's eyes and escape.

This move lead to a barrage of illegal moves by Flair that caught Luger off-guard. Flair's confidence grew until Lex seemed to have had enough. Ric tried to chop Luger in the throat, but an angered Lex only goaded Flair to continue. The champion then saw that Luger was not going down, so he backed away and tried to shake hands. Lex let out a roar and tore into Flair, first lifting Ric high over his head and holding the champion there before slamming him to the mat. Lex continued his barrage with a rafter-rattling powerslam followed by his "torture rack" backbreaker.

Lex Luger has Ric Flair in a compromising position. In yet another match—this time in Atlanta—Flair retained his NWA World title by DQ.

With Dillon powerless at ringside due to the presence of Ayres, Flair looked doomed. True to form, Barry Windham ran into the ring to save Flair. Windham was met head-on by Ayres, and the guest official floored Barry before he could stop Lex. But with Ayres distracted by Windham, Dillon took the opportunity to jump into the ring and nail Luger with his shoe, causing Flair's immediate disqualification and allowing him to retain his precious belt.

Windham charged Ayres again, but the big man didn't back up one inch. Windham, Flair, and Dillon decided they'd better not face an angry Luger and Ayres again, so they fled to the dressing room.

In other bouts: Sting beat Windham by disqualification . . . The Midnight Express defeated The Fantastics . . . Dusty Rhodes beat Kevin Sullivan . . . Ivan Koloff defeated Russian Assassin II . . . Dick Murdoch beat Larry Zbyszko . . . Mike Rotundo, Rick Steiner, & Al Perez pinned Nikita Koloff, Steve Williams, & The Italian Stallion.

Snyder, TX ***(Correspondent—Justin Baize):*** Kerry Von Erich met Iceman Parsons in the main event of a card that some fans dubbed "The Wildest Night In Snyder Wrestling History." The audience strongly supported Kerry, and their hatred for Iceman intensified after he tore apart a poster that a young girl wanted Kerry to sign.

After the bell rang, the two fought with a remarkable level of violent intensity, blending scientific moves with brawling. The highlight of the battle came when the action spilled out of the ring and the two wrestlers threw each other into a group of empty seats. Parsons smashed Kerry with a chair. A fan then handed Kerry a chair, which he used to hit Iceman. The entire ringside crowd was out of their seats, surrounding the adversaries.

As Kerry and Iceman struggled back into the ring, the ring announcer demanded that everyone return to their seats. Meanwhile, the match had turned into a brawl. Iceman flung Kerry into the ropes, but Kerry came back with a sunset flip and scored the pin.

In other bouts: Manuel Villalobos and Black Bart fought to a draw . . . The Beast defeated Steve Casey . . . Wild Bill Irwin pinned Jimmy Jack Funk . . . Steve Cox & Kendall Windham pinned The Samoan Swat Team. □

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 18)

because they know they'll never be considered true champions until they beat us—which they'll never be able to do."

***

Q: "My question is for AWA World champion Jerry Lawler: How did you feel when your old friend Dutch Mantel turned on you during a recent match?"—Red Garland, Louisville, KY

A: Lawler answered: "Well, if you were there, you saw what happened. Mantel gave this long speech about our friendship and how he wanted to wrestle me for the sportsmanship of it, not because there was any bitterness. And you know how strongly I believe that two friends can wrestle for a title and still retain their friendship. Well, his speech moved me. Then he begins the match by kicking me below the belt! Some sportsman! I was deeply hurt because all the words of friendship before the match were real. It really hurt to find out that he didn't mean any of them!"

***

Q: "I have only two questions: What *really* happened to Rick Martel? Is he planning to return to wrestling?"—Karen Clifton, Greenbelt, MD

A: Columnist Eddie Ellner answered, "What do you mean, 'What *really* happened?' There's no cloak-and-dagger secrecy here. We all *saw* what happened. Demolition executed one of the finest guillotine maneuvers I have ever seen. Martel was incapacitated—or is that 'decapitated?'—outside the ring. Strike Force lost by countout. Martel's back and neck injuries were severe, but certainly not enough to warrant him being away *this* long. My guess is that he's simply too scared to return." □

Demolition Smash waits for Rick Martel to get up so he can continue his assault. Eddie Ellner speculates that Martel has not returned to the ring because he's afraid.

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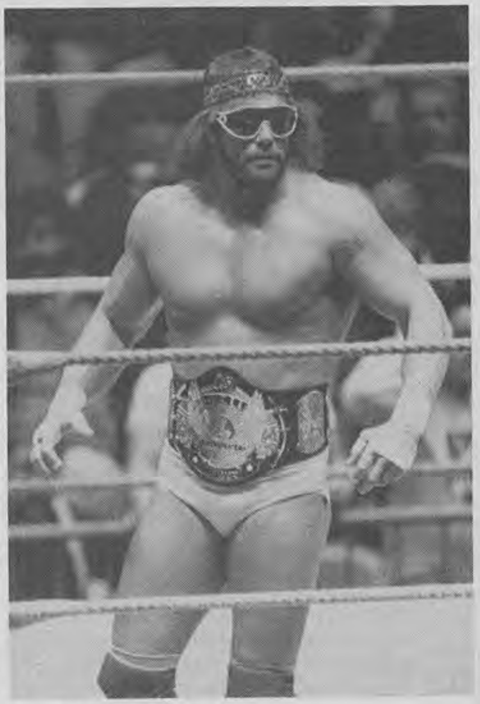

Randy Savage

TOP 10

1 **RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
WWF World champion

2 **JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
AWA World/World Class champion

3 **RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
NWA World champion

4 **LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
No. 2 contender: NWA title

5 **ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
No. 2 contender: WWF title

6 **BARRY WINDHAM**
263, Sweetwater, TX
U.S. heavyweight champion

7 **KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
No. 1 contender: WCCW/AWA titles

8 **HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
No. 3 contender: WWF title

9 **STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
No. 3 contender: NWA title

10 **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
WWF Intercontinental champion

TAG TEAMS

1 **THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
NWA World tag team champions

2 **DEMOLITION**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
WWF World tag team champions

3 **THE ROAD WARRIORS**
Combined weight: 567 pounds
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title

4 **PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**
Combined weight: 456 pounds
AWA World tag team champions

5 **THE ROCKERS**
Combined weight: 450 pounds
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title

6 **THE FANTASTICS**
Combined weight: 462 pounds
No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title

7 **JACQUES & RAYMOND ROUGEAU**
Combined weight: 490 pounds
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title

8 **THE HART FOUNDATION**
Combined weight: 515 pounds
No. 4 contenders: WWF tag team title

9 **THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM**
Combined weight: 510 pounds
World Class Texas tag team champions

10 **WARLORD & BARBARIAN**
Combined weight: 655 pounds
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—**BARRY WINDHAM** 263, Sweetwater, TX
2—**LEX LUGER** 268, Chicago, IL
3—**STING** 260, Venice Beach, CA
4—**DUSTY RHODES** 302, Austin, TX
5—**STEVE WILLIAMS** 265, Norman, OK
6—**NIKITA KOLOFF** 275, Moscow, Russia
7—**MIKE ROTUNDO** 245, Syracuse, NY
8—**BAM BAM BIGELOW** 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
9—**RICK STEINER** 248, Detroit, MI
10—**EDDIE GILBERT** 222, Lexington, TN

WWF

World Champion:
RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL

1—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** 280, Queens, NY
2—**ANDRE THE GIANT** 497, Grenoble, France
3—**HULK HOGAN** 302, Venice Beach, CA
4—**KING HAKU** 274, Tonga
5—**TED DiBIASE** 247, Omaha, NB
6—**THE HONKY TONK MAN** 255, Memphis, TN
7—**BIG BOSSMAN** 348, Cobb County, GA
8—**BAD NEWS BROWN** 280, New York, NY
9—**JAKE ROBERTS** 246, Stone Mountain, GA
10—**HACKSAW DUGGAN** 280, Glens Falls, NY

AWA

World Champion:
JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

1—**RONNIE GARVIN** 231, Montreal, Quebec
2—**KERRY VON ERICH** 260, Denton, TX
3—**GREG GAGNE** 220, Robbinsdale, MN
4—**WAHOO McDANIEL** 280, Midland, TX
5—**COL. DeBEERS** 248, Cape Town, South Africa
6—**MANNY FERNANDEZ** 245, El Paso, TX
7—**SGT. SLAUGHTER** 310, Parris Island, SC
8—**SOLDAT USTINOV** 265, Moscow, Russia
9—**JEFF JARRETT** 200, Hendersonville, TN
10—**MANDO GUERRERO** 225, Mexico City, Mexico

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

1—**ICEMAN PARSONS** 245, St. Louis, MO
2—**KERRY VON ERICH** 260, Denton, TX
3—**KAMALA** 360, Uganda
4—**JEFF JARRETT** 200, Hendersonville, TN
5—**SUPER BLACK NINJA** 245, Tokyo, Japan
6—**ERIC EMBRY** 225, Lexington, KY
7—**TERRY GORDY** 289, Chattanooga, TN
8—**KEVIN VON ERICH** 235, Denton, TX
9—**KENDALL WINDHAM** 220, Sweetwater, TX
10—**STEVE COX** 240, Portsmouth, VA

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category: certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

1 **RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular

2 **HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular

3 **STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular

4 **HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular

5 **LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular

6 **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular

7 **DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular

8 **JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular

9 **KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular

10 **JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1 **ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated

2 **RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated

3 **BIG BOSSMAN**
348, Cobb County, GA
Last month: unrated

4 **BARRY WINDHAM**
263, Sweetwater, TX
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated

5 **TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated

6 **RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated

7 **THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated

8 **KEVIN SULLIVAN**
252, Boston, MA
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated

9 **COL. DeBEERS**
248, Cape Town, South Africa
Last month: unrated

10 **RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated

For period ended October 27, 1988

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—RIC FLAIR .... 95 points
2—RANDY SAVAGE .... 86 points
3—LEX LUGER .... 60 points
4—JERRY LAWLER .... 51 points
5—STING .... 48 points

TAG TEAMS

1—THE ROAD WARRIORS .... 79 points
2—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON ... 75 points
3—DEMOLITION .... 75 points
4—THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS .... 73 points
5—THE FANTASTICS .... 46 points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
MAKHAN SINGH
380, Saginaw, MI

1—**JOHNNY SMITH** *235, Manchester, England*
2—**LANCE IDOL** *225, Hollywood, CA*
3—**BRUCE HART** *211, Calgary, Alberta*
4—**CHRIS BENOIT** *218, Edmonton, Alberta*
5—**STEVE BLACKMAN** *250, Pittsburgh, PA*
6—**VULKAN SINGH** *300, Billings, MT*
7—**GAMA SINGH** *220, Karachi, Pakistan*
8—**JERRY MORROW** *235, Martinique*
9—**STEVE DiSALVO** *298, Boston, MA*
10—**BEEF WELLINGTON** *225, Lloydmaster, Alberta*

CWA

CWA Champion:
PHIL HICKERSON
257, Jackson, TN

1—**BRICKHOUSE BROWN** *225, Winter Haven, FL*
2—**JEFF JARRETT** *200, Hendersonville, TN*
3—**JIMMY VALIANT** *251, New York, NY*
4—**ROBERT FULLER** *238, Dyresburg, TN*
5—**TOMMY RICH** *248, Hendersonville, TN*
6—**GARY YOUNG** *240, Houston, TX*
7—**BILL DUNDEE** *214, Melbourne, AUS*
8—**JIMMY GOLDEN** *235, Montgomery, AL*
9—**SCOTT STEINER** *235, Detroit, MI*
10—**CACTUS JACK** *247, Truth or Consequences, NM*

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
TOM PRICHARD
220, Houston, TX

1—**TONY ANTHONY** *235, Bucksnorth, TN*
2—**JERRY STUBBS** *242, Pensacola, FL*
3—**RON FULLER** *238, Dyresburg, TN*
4—**KEN WAYNE** *208, Memphis, TN*
5—**WILLIE B. HERT** *238, El Paso, TX*
6—**LORD HUMONGOUS** *325, parts unknown*
7—**BRAD ARMSTRONG** *226, Marietta, GA*
8—**KOKINA** *340, Samoa*
9—**DAN DAVIS** *238, Nashville, TN*
10—**THE BULLET** *234, parts unknown*

ICW

ICW Champion:
JOE SAVOLDI
225, Parsippany, NJ

1—**JONATHAN BOYD** *240, New Zealand*
2—**DUNGEON MASTER** *260, parts unknown*
3—**TONY ATLAS** *247, Roanoke, VA*
4—**JOHNNY CANINE** *240, Pittsburgh, PA*
5—**VIC STEAMBOAT** *230, Honolulu, HI*
6—**BOSTON BAD BOY** *280, Boston, MA*
7—**MOONDOG SPOT** *250, parts unknown*
8—**CHIEF GATOR WOLF** *240, Phoenix, AZ*
9—**THE THING** *225, parts unknown*
10—**SCOTT PUTSKI** *230, Austin, TX*

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

A new number two! **Ric Flair** has been defending his NWA World title infrequently over the past few months against a limited number of challengers (mainly **Sting** and **Lex Luger**, with a rare defense against **Rick Steiner** thrown in). **Jerry Lawler**, on the other hand, has defended his AWA World title nearly every night against a wide range of challengers from several federations. On October 23 in Memphis, Lawler defeated **Kerry Von Erich** and added the World Class heavyweight title to his trophy case.

With that in mind, Lawler has moved up a notch to number two in the Top 10 ratings, displacing Flair, who dropped a notch. Incredibly, this marks the first time since the Top 10 ratings were first introduced in the August 1983 issue of *The Wrestler* that the AWA champion is rated above the NWA champion!

Jerry Lawler

"This can be taken two ways," said Senior Editor **Bill Apter**. "On one hand, it's a signal to Flair that his conduct, and I'm talking about infrequent title defenses and always getting himself disqualified, is ruining the image of the NWA World title. On the positive side, when Lawler won the AWA title, everybody was wondering what he would do for its prestige. Well, here's your answer. Lawler has done for the AWA World title what nobody else ever could."

And more silly ratings! They're back again! We were absolutely overwhelmed by the response to our second request for your silly ratings—so overwhelmed that the December 1988 "Ratings Analysis" didn't give us enough room to print all of your work. So, without further ado, here are more of your offbeat ratings.

Mike Manges of Barberton, Ohio, compiled his **Top 10 Russian Wrestlers of the Past Five Years:** 1—Nikita Koloff; 2—Ivan Koloff; 3—Krusher Khrushchev; 4—Nikolai Volkoff; 5—Boris Zukhov; 6—Vladimir Petrov; 7—Alexis Smirnoff; 8—The Russian Assassin I; 9—Yuri Gordyenko; 10—The Russian Assassian II. Mike also sent along his **Top 10 Press Slams:** 1—Road Warrior Animal; 2—Road Warrior Hawk; 3—Sting; 4—The Ultimate Warrior; 5—Steve Williams; 6—Davey Boy Smith; 7—Lex Luger; 8—Butch Reed; 9—Dusty Rhodes; 10—Nikolai Volkoff. Finally, Mike's **10 Most Powerful Wrestlers** (combining strength and speed): 1—Animal; 2—Hawk; 3—Nikita Koloff; 4—Sting; 5—The Barbarian; 6—Kerry Von Erich; 7—Steve Williams; 8—Lex Luger; 9—Kevin Von Erich; 10—Rick Rude.

Danny Furman of Philadelphia worked overtime to send in several entries. First, the **Top 10 Physiques:** 1—The Ultimate Warrior; 2—Lex Luger; 3—Sting; 4—Randy Savage; 5—Road Warrior Hawk; 6—Kerry Von Erich; 7—Nikita Koloff; 8—Al Perez; 9—Rick Rude; 10—Don Muraco. Next, the **10 Weirdest Wrestlers:** 1—The Missing Link; 2—George "The Animal" Steele; 3—The Ultimate Warrior; 4—The Honky Tonk Man; 5—Max Pain; 6—Kamala; 7—Jason the Terrible; 8—Detroit Demolition; 9—Abdullah the Butcher; 10—Kendo Nagasaki.

Boston's Nancy Stiles lists her **10 Most Obnoxious Wrestlers:** 1—Ric Flair; 2—Ted DiBiase; 3—Barry Windham; 4—Rick Rude; 5—either of the Rougeaus; 6—Dusty Rhodes; 7—Rick Morton; 8—Tully Blanchard; 9—The Honky Tonk Man; 10—Arn Anderson.

Grant Sturgeon of Brantford, Ontario, compiled several lists. One that's often popular with several readers is **Top 10 Finishing Maneuvers:** 1—Sting's scorpion leglock; 2—Ric Flair's figure-four leglock; 3—Randy Savage's flying elbow; 4—Kerry Von Erich's iron claw; 5—Ted DiBiase's sleeperhold; 6—Lex Luger's backbreaker; 7—Barry Windham's claw; 8—Al Perez' spinning toe hold; 9—Jake Roberts' DDT; 10—Demolition's backbreaker/elbow combination. Next, the **Top 10 Face Paints:** 1—Sting; 2—The Ultimate Warrior; 3—Animal; 4—Barbarian; 5—Smash; 6—Kamala; 7—Hawk; 8—Ax; 9—The Missing Link; 10—Warlord. Finally, the **Top Five Couples of Wrestling:** 1—Randy Savage & Elizabeth; 2—Eddie Gilbert & Missy Hyatt; 3—Jimmy Garvin & Precious; 4—Ted DiBiase & Virgil; 5—Diamond Dallas Page & The Diamond Doll.

Sting

A grisly list comes from Michael Pinion of Westland, Michigan. It's **The 10 Vampires of Wrestling (Active and Retired):** 1—Abdullah the Butcher; 2—Tor Kamata; 3—Ox Baker; 4—The Sheik; 5—Killer Brooks; 6—Buddy Colt; 7—Killer Kowalski; 8—George "The Animal" Steele; 9—The Legionnaires; 10—Ray Stevens. All of these men have been known to bite their opponents deep and often!

A first-timer. That's the ICW—International Championship Wrestling—which takes center stage in our revolving ratings category for the first time. The ICW runs cards throughout the country, including Canada, most of New England, New Jersey, New York, Arizona, and Florida. The champion is **Joe Savoldi**, son of ICW promoter **Mario Savoldi**. Other stars are **Vic Steamboat**, brother of **Rick Steamboat**, and **Scott Putski**, son of **Ivan Putski**.

That's all for now! And while we don't want any more of your offbeat ratings, we'd love to hear what you think about any subject relevant to our ratings. The address for mail is: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *The Wrestler;* Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY; 11571. □

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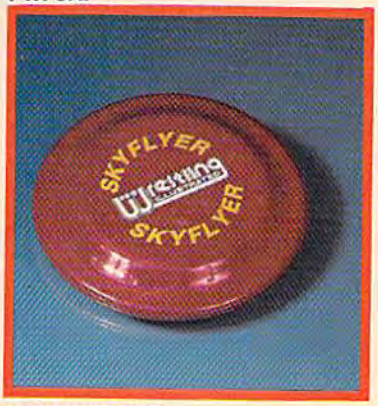

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